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SPECIAL NOTICE.

From and after this date, no name of a new subscriber will be entered without payment in advance, nor will the paper be sent to such subscribers for a longer time than is paid for.

Such of our old subscribers as desire to take the paper on this system will please notify us when making remittances.

Jan'y 1, 1865.

CASUALTIES AT FORT FISHER.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

RICHMOND COUNTY, Jan. 24.

Messrs. Editors: Please publish the accompanying list of casualties just to hand from Capt. McBryde's company K, 40th Reg't, captured at Fort Fisher:

Killed: J Q Oliver; G D Wilkinson (supposed.) Wounded: Sgt McCallum supposed dead, N Douglass, N Jackson, W Lock, H A McKenzie, M McNeill, A Parker, A Stewart, W J Sutton, T Williams, E Williams. Missing: W McKay, W Roberts.

This list embraces both days' fight, and is correct so far as known as furnished by Capt. McBryde.

A letter has been received giving the following statements in regard to Co. F, 10th Reg't, N. C. Troops, artillery, which composed part of the garrison of Fort Fisher:

"Lt. Ezekiel Hood and Sg't Levi E. Johnson, wounded, with about 20 others. *None killed.* Rob't Hood, Bryant Parker, Isaac Thorston, Haywood Harris and Josiah Holloman were left at Smithville, sick, when the place was evacuated. E B Hood, S P Hood, N B Hood, J W Fulford, Jim Johnson, Marshal Sloan and Calvin Hales, are at Fort Lee, three miles below Wilmington. J M. Hampson, Noah Britt and Henry Walsh are in Wilmington."—*Goldsboro' State Journal, 25th.*

Resignation of James A. Seddon, Secretary of War.—We are enabled to state positively that Mr. Seddon, Secretary of War, has resigned his position in President Davis's Cabinet. If any nomination has been made of his successor, it has not yet been acted upon.—*Richmond Examiner, 21st.*

Mr. Seddon resigns on account of failing health.

SOUTHERN PUBLICATIONS.

THE ELEMENTARY SPELLING BOOK, contains about the same as Webster's Spelling Book, with the additional advantage of having all the vowels and accent accurately marked. A supply always on hand. Price $8 00.

THE FIRST DIXIE READER is a new book, containing easy reading lessons on Southern subjects. Price 75 cts.

THE DIXIE PRIMER, Third Edition, Pictorial, still continues to be immensely popular. Price ($25 per hundred) 50 cts.

THE PRIMARY GEOGRAPHY, Second Edition, is a new and popular book. It is entirely Southern and finely adapted to common schools. Price 3 00.

FIRST BOOK IN COMPOSITION, by L. Branson, A. M., is now used extensively, and is the only book of the kind published in the Confederacy. Price 3 00.

YORK'S ENGLISH GRAMMAR, Third Edition, is finely adapted to common schools. Price 3 00.

JOHNSON'S COMMON SCHOOL ARITHMETIC, by Prof. L. Johnson of Trinity College, is a new and valuable book, and will be followed by a high school Arithmetic. Price 3 50.

MYRTLE LEAVES, by Rev. A. W. Mangum, second edition, is a delightful book, and contains a beautiful story of a "Soldier's Love." Price 2 00.

HISTORICAL SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS, is sold largely. It gives the student much valuable information of the Historical portions of the Bible. Price 75 cts.

SONGS OF LOVE and LIBERTY, compiled by a North Carolina Lady. Contains a popular collection of Songs and Ballads. Price (per hundred $40) 75 cts.

THE JACK MORGAN SONGSTER, compiled by Capt. T. A. Branson, is one of the best collections of songs and sentimental ballads ever published. Price (per hundred $50) 1 00.

MORVEN AND LINDA, a tale of a soldier's love, is a rare and racy little book. Price ($12 per hundred) 25 cts.

CANTWELL'S LAW PRACTICE, Second Edition, contains all the business forms extensively used. Price 2 00.

SHEET MUSIC, a full assortment of the pieces published in the South. Price from 1 00 to 4 00.

STATIONERY of all kinds, at moderate prices.

FANCY ARTICLES generally.

☞ The usual deductions made to the Trade.

☞ Those ordering goods to be sent per mail, must remit 10 cents extra on the dollar to pay postage.

N. B. Our Publications are to be had at the principal Book Stores throughout the country.

BRANSON & FARRAR,
Raleigh, N. C.

Sept. 17. 76tf

A few Important Facts
IN REGARD TO
THE "SOUTHERN HEPATIC PILLS."

1. THEY are prepared from the best quality of Medicine by the discoverer, now an aged Minister of the Gospel, and are safe.

2. They have been known for years and tested by thousands.

3. Five hundred persons are known to have been cured by them.

4. They are not recommended by the proprietor for everything, but only for diseases which arise from disordered livers.

5. Directions and certificates accompany each box and these certificates are from well known and most respectable individuals.

6. Correspondents recommend them as good for Liver Disease, Chills and Fevers, Rheumatism, Jaundice, Dyspepsia, Bilious Fevers, Bilious Remittents, Worms, Pleurisy, Bronchitis &c.

7. Several gentlemen state that the use of these Pills has been to them an annual saving of from $100 to $200; they are the best vegetation medicine ever offered to the public.

8. Some Physicians of the highest standing prescribe them to their patients and hundreds of boxes have been sold to regular practitioners.

9. During the last quarter 2 880 boxes have been sold to Druggists, one in South Carolina, and one in North Carolina—and some time one over 3,700 boxes were ordered by Druggists in one town in Virginia.

☞ Price $450 per gross, $50 per dozen, 25 per box.

For Sale in North Carolina as Follows:

Asheville, E J Aston,
Altamarle, J M Bivins,
Chapel Hill, S S Sanders,
Charlotte, J Nye Hutchinson,
" P S Carr,
Clinton, Hubbard & Moseley,
Concord, J Reid,
Enfield, J Gregory,
Hillsboro', J Y Whitted & Co.
Fayetteville, N A Sjedman & Co.
Greensboro, Porter & Gorrell,
Goldsboro', Lucas & Moore,
Hertford, J O'Brien,
Henderson, Wyche & Co.
Lexington, J F Sherrin,
Address.

Lincolnton, S F Sherrill,
Louisburg, J Clifton,
Marion, Wm Wakefield,
Pittsboro', J Long,
Raleigh, Williams & Haywood,
" P F Pescud,
Rockingham, J F Northam,
Salisbury, Henderson & Ennis,
" Burnaby & Gallaghar,
Shelby, R Froneberger,
Wadesboro, W O Bennett,
Whiteville, K Haynes,
Wilmington, Walker Meares,
" R McRae,
" W H Lippitt,
Williamston, GEORGE W DIGGS,
Cokesbury, S C.

Lost or Mislaid,

A CERTIFICATE, No. 69, dated March 8th, 1864, issued to me by John G. Bedford, Depositary, at this place, for $1000 4 per cent. Confederate B Bd. Said certificate is without coupons attached. This is to notify the public that we have made application in due form of law to Mr. Bedford for a duplicate Certificate.

J. & A. CAMERON.

Fayetteville, Dec. 29. 97tf

Land to Rent.

A GOOD PLANTATION on Cape Fear River, including about 100 acres of fine bottom land. On the premises is a large Dwelling House and other out buildings.

M. McKAY.

Summerville, Harnett Co., Jan'y 21. 3t 3 25 adapt

OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1865.

THE SPIRIT OF CONFEDERATE PRISONERS.—We recently heard a Surgeon in charge of a Confederate Hospital in Richmond, who has had a great many returned prisoners under treatment, speak of their burning anxiety to get again into the service, that they might have a chance to wipe out their obligations to the yankees for the cruelties and insults inflicted upon them whilst in prison. It is, he says, a universal feeling, predominating over all others. They cannot understand the base idea of some who have never faced danger or endured suffering, who are willing to submit to the rule of such an inhuman people. Anything but that; anything but subjugation or even association with their yankee tormentors. These feelings are faithfully described by Col. M. L. Woods, of the 46th Alabama Reg't, who has just returned from an imprisonment of 20 months, who says:

"What is most important concerning our prisoners, is the spirit which animates them. They were never more enthusiastic in their patriotism, and were never more determined to fight through the war than now. They authorized Col. Woods to say to the President and the Confederate Congress that, in the reorganization of the army, which they anticipated, any claims which they might have as officers should be entirely disregarded. They are perfectly willing to shoulder their muskets and march in the ranks of the army. The general spirit of Confederate prisoners—privates as well as officers—throughout the North, was undaunted and determined; and whilst a large number of soldiers are reported to have taken the oath of allegiance to the United States, Col. Woods knows that the number is not only grossly exaggerated, but that a large number who do take the oath only do so to enable them to get out of the clutches of their keepers and return to the Confederacy."

Col. Woods informs the Richmond Enquirer that at Johnson's Island, where are 3000 officers and 200 privates, the food is restricted to 34½ ounces a day, and of that allowance they were cheated out of a part, having received in a month only an average of 28½ ounces. 38 ounces per day are considered the standard minimum amount of food necessary for the healthy condition of an individual. One restriction after another had been placed upon their receipt of food from friends, or purchase of it, until they could get nothing but the inadequate allowance doled out to them. It is to be hoped that all this cruelty is at an end since the Confederate government has sent officers to distribute relief among our men.

Since the above was in type a friend has handed to us the following confirmatory testimony from an officer of our own town:—

Messrs. Editors:—The following is an extract from a letter recently received by a citizen of Fayetteville from a beloved son who has from the *commencement* of the war been *in the front*, battling for our country's rights and independence. The noble spirit exhibited by this gallant Confederate soldier, confined as he has long been within the walls of a Federal prison, should inspire with courage and hope the timid and desponding at home, as it tells of the undying devotion and the unconquerable determination of our heroic soldiery.

* * *

"JOHNSON'S ISLAND, OHIO, Dec. 25, 1864.

"It is Sunday evening: they say Christmas evening. If the 25th December is Christmas under all circumstances, then I suppose it is. However this looks like complaining at my fortune: this I want to repudiate at the start: come weal or woe, I know no change; unalterably fixed in determination, I abide without complaint every privation 'till the bright morning shall come when the virgin light of Liberty shall rise again to disappear no more behind dark and evil clouds. True to the instincts, innate and inborn, instincts descending from father to son, implanted by nature, and nurtured by time:—today from the gloomy bastions of frowning bayonets I look forth and beyond:—the haven may be distant, but of a surety it is there even though knew I not it. No weather-side do I show—like the weather-beaten sycamore of my own native heath, broken may I be but never be bent!"

W. C. M., Hoke's Old Brigade.

FRANCE AND ENGLAND.—We concur fully in the opinion of the Richmond Whig, that "if the Confederate States could ever be subdued, they would have at least one consolation in their misery: France and England would be sufferers in a degree only inferior to themselves, for their folly in persisting to ignore them as independent States." Only let such a disaster happen, and England may bid farewell to Canada, and France to Mexico. The Monroe doctrine would at once become the rallying cry of every man in the whole yankee nation, and not only of them, but of every man in the Confederate States likewise. Should England and France continue their policy of wrong to the "so-called Confederate States," as Lord John Russell persists in calling them, there is not a true-hearted man in all the South but would rejoice at any amount of injury that the United States would do them, yea, and assist in the operation. They have submitted to insults from the United States, been bullied into a disregard of the plainest principles of international law, for the sake of avoiding a war with the United States. And at each pusillanimous back out, that war has only been made the more certain and inevitable. The only safety for their colonies and their commerce lies in the independence of the Confederacy and its good feeling towards them, which good feeling has been almost obliterated, but may yet be restored by justice, tardy though it be.

All this seems so plain to us that we must believe it equally plain to the statesmen of England and France; and that they will not permit subjugation, even if such a disaster and disgrace were possible. We look therefore with strong confidence for a speedy change of policy on the part of those nations—a change which would re-inspirit the despondent among ourselves and blast the confident hopes of the yankees. These results would insure our triumph, at a much earlier day than we can otherwise expect.

GOLD.—The Richmond papers inform us that for some days after the fall of Fort Fisher the brokers put up the price of gold. It advanced rapidly and materially. But soon the public came to understand that instead of advancing the price should have gone down, for the large demand for it as a means of running the blockade was at an end. And it did go down; in two days it fell from 76 for 1, to 47 for 1, and with a downward tendency.

It is stated by the Dispatch that from $20,000 to $100,000 in gold were required every week to run the blockade. And that paper adds to an article on the subject, that "so far as the monetary affairs of the Confederacy are concerned, our prospects are brighter than for many days past; and should our currency continue to improve under the wholesome treatment now advised and in contemplation, our prospects in other points of view cannot grow worse."

FACTORY BURNT.—We regret to hear that the Cotton Factory of McAllister & Co., in Montgomery county, caught fire accidentally on Friday night last and was destroyed.

A GREAT TRUTH.—In reading the following remarks of the Richmond Dispatch, and realising its truthfulness, our minds turned to the numerous cases in the course of this war in which equal injustice has been done as was done to the great and good WASHINGTON in his day. Without comparing any of the men of our day and generation to Washington, (except Lee, and he, more fortunate than Washington, has escaped distrust and persecution,) we think that there are some whose honest and earnest labors for the good of their country have met with as much obloquy. The time may come when even President Davis's labors may be applauded by those who now condemn him. But it is of one who has recently earned the bubble reputation at the cannon's mouth that we would now speak—the gallant and gifted Whiting. Perhaps it would be hard to find one who has been more abused and less appreciated, even in the community which he has given almost his life to serve and to save. "'Tis not in mortals to command success, but he did more—deserved it." All men are now ready to admit this. Perhaps others of our heroes and statesmen may reach the same glorious goal without passing through the same fiery ordeal. But we detain the reader from the remarks of the Dispatch:

"It was the fortune of Gen. Washington, whilst conducting the Seven Years' War of the Revolution, to be the object of especial hate and vengeance to the British crown, and, at the same time, to be exposed to misrepresentation, destruction and obloquy at the hands of his own countrymen. Few of us, not familiar with the details of the trying ordeal through which he passed, can form an adequate idea of the fiery furnace in which that great soul was tested, and from which it came forth, known and recognized of all men, as pure gold. There were many hours of his history in which it seemed far more probable that he would die the death of a felon and be only remembered as the unskillful and unsuccessful leader of an insane revolt, than become the admiration of all nations and of all ages, and be described by the pen of one of England's most gifted nobles in words like these: "Surely Washington was the greatest man that ever lived in this world unInspired by Divine wisdom and unsustained by supernatural virtue."

"It is difficult to realize that the man of whom this is now said, even in England, was once distrusted, harassed and persecuted by his own countrymen. No human eye penetrated the secret chambers of that great soul to see the poignant wounds of the spirit, and how it was compelled to wrestle with and overcome its private grief at the same moment that it bore the weight of a nation's burthens and marshalled it the way to victory and independence. The sorrows of the great have few who appreciate, few who sympathize with them. They are supposed to be exalted above the lot of common suffering; they are too proud to reveal the vultures that are tugging at their heartstrings and ask the compassion and support of the world. And yet, the fortitude and virtue of a man in high position, struggling with adversity, and, what is more painful to bear, misunderstanding and obloquy, when he has reason to expect confidence and regard, is a spectacle which appeals more to the admiration of good and heroic minds than those sorrows which lie upon the surface, and which attract at once the sympathy and consolations of the world."

YANKEE HUMANITY TO THE NEGROES.—The last yankee papers have some urgent appeals for help for the negroes whom Sherman has carried off, or induced to run off, from their masters during his march through Georgia. They show how much the negroes have been benefited by freedom. They were generally well cared for by their owners, in sickness, in health, in infancy, and in old age. Now see what their condition is:

Brig. Gen. Rufus Saxton, Military Governor of South Carolina, writes "to the good men and women of the North," as follows:—

"We earnestly appeal to you on behalf of the *thousands of suffering negroes* whom Gen. Sherman has just liberated by his triumphant march through Georgia. They have arrived on the coast after long marches and severe privations, *weary, famished, sick and almost naked.* Seven hundred of these wretched people arrived at Beaufort Christmas night, *in a state of misery which would have moved to pity a heart of stone*, and these are but the advance of a host no less destitute. Unless the charity of the North comes speedily to the rescue, they must *die by hundreds from exposure and disease.* So extreme and entire is the destitution of this people, that nothing which you can afford to give will come amiss. Clothing is their most pressing need, especially for women and children; Shoes and stockings, hats, suspenders, and under-garments of all kinds, utensils, medicine, money—anything you have to spare—will find its use among this *wretched people.*"

Another "appeal" for these "poor suffering creatures" says: "*Two hundred of the four taken out are sick through exposure, and coffins go out each day to bury the dead.* Before this reaches you, from *three to five thousand more, equally destitute, will be laid upon our hands. What, in God's name, shall we do with them?* How offer them sufficient in the way of physical comfort, even to keep them from regretting their escape from slavery."

And this is the condition of the few thousand blacks that have been liberated by Sherman. And yet the North—in the face of this confession—would set free the four millions of slaves of the South. And for what? To die from sheer starvation!

BAING IN YOUR PROVISIONS.—We are glad to publish the following notice from the Impressing Officer for the counties of Cumberland, Harnett and Moore. We hope it will quiet the apprehensions of persons who have been deceived as to the operations of the officers here:

NOTICE.—Having heard that persons with wagons and carts are deterred from coming to market, and that some are actually turned back by reports that their provisions or horses or mules will be impressed, I again give notice that no such impressments will be made, as none have been made for six months past. Whatever I buy I pay the local appraisement prices for, which are about equal to the market prices.

J. B. SOUTHERLAND, Purchasing Commissary for 4th Congress'l District.

Fayetteville, Jan'y 25, 1865.

A COMPARISON.—To any one who may regard the new prices of the Observer as high, we say: Formerly we bought two bushels of corn for a year's subscription to the Weekly Observer. Now we cannot buy one bushel with the increased price. Formerly three years' subscription would pay for a barrel of flour. Now a barrel will cost eighteen years' subscription. Formerly a year's subscription would pay for forty pounds of pork. Now it will pay for five pounds. Formerly it would pay for fourteen pounds of coffee. Now it will not pay for one pound. And so on. There is about as great a difference in clothing as in food. And amongst all the essentials of life, newspapers are the cheapest.

Frank Blair again in Richmond!—RICHMOND, Jan. 24.—Frank Blair is still here endeavoring to initiate negotiations for Peace. Col. Singleton started for Washington to-day, but the flag of truce boat was compelled to return.

From the United States.—RICHMOND, Jan. 24.—United States papers of the 20th say that Wall street was excited on the 18th by reports that Francis P. Blair had returned to Richmond with a programme from Lincoln in favor of Commissioners to meet at City Point. Everybody who had anything to sell was selling, at a sacrifice in many cases, under a conviction that the war was about over. In a day or two, the papers say, they will probably have cause to bemoan their credulity. Gold opened on the 20th at 129½.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

In the Senate, on Monday, a number of unimportant bills were passed, and the resolutions protesting against the policy of emancipation for public services were taken up and discussed by

Mr. Dick, who argued against the policy of using slaves in the army, declaring they were not needed as cooks, would be worse than useless as teamsters, and, by their absence from the corn-field would deprive us of provisions enough to feed an army of an hundred thousand men for twelve months. Nor did he favor emancipation to please England or France. To allow the government to interfere in any way with slavery in the States would be to adopt the Lincoln abolition doctrine and be to confess before the world the South was not justified in secession. In concluding he would say that as Cato always closed his harangues by crying *Delenda est Carthago*, so he would bring his remarks to a close by declaring that we must have peace.

Mr. Odom offered an amendment to the resolutions, declaring that when the proposition to arm slaves was first brought forward he had thought public opinion would at once have frowned it down. North Carolina ought to protest against it, as unwise, inexpedient, wild, and wrong, and as one that if done would leave the country to starve. Mr. O. then proceeded to discuss the resolutions *seriatim*, arguing in favor of their adoption, declaring that the government could no more pay for 100,000 slaves to go in the army than Satan could have given the kingdom and wealth of the world to the Lord, and begging Senators not to abolitionize themselves, but to remain true to slavery—the normal condition of the negro—and to go down—if must be—with all lost save honor.

In the Commons, on Monday, Mr. Benbury offered resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, calling upon the Gov'r to institute immediate and searching inquiry into all the circumstances of alleged harsh and cruel treatment of a Dr. H. P. Ritter, and to demand of the Confederate Gov't the immediate trial and arrest of its officers voluntarily concerned therein. The resolutions were accompanied by a statement of Dr. R., setting forth that Dr. Ritter being on the 5th of December, 1864, in Weldon, and going to procure passports to the office of Provost Marshal, was by that officer immediately arrested, turned over to Col. Gailliard, and, after being detained by him two days, in the guard house, sent to Richmond under guard. Arriving there, he was immured in Castle Thunder and treated with great harshness, being refused permission to purchase wholesome and sufficient food, &c. On the 12th he was declared by an examining commission arrested on insufficient grounds, but re-committed to jail till the evening of the 14th. On arriving at Weldon, after his release, he found one of his servants, arrested with him, in a dying condition, from exposure and neglect, and discovered that the locks on his baggage had been forced, and his trunks rifled. The only cause assigned for his arrest was an anonymous letter, signed "Captain in the Confederate service, Lee's army," charging H. P. Ritter with being a yankee spy, and declaring that he had received $10,000 to go to Salisbury and inspect the fortifications there, and note what force was on the roads. A postscript to the letter says, "My hand is disguised, so if my letter should be lost no one can find out who rote it," and is signed "Captain in Hoke's division, on furlow."

The Senate resolution to send supplies to Wilmington was passed.

In the Senate, on Tuesday, bills and resolutions were introduced by Mr. Leitch, to allow citizens to consolidate their lands. Mr. Bryson, "That the committee on propositions and grievances be instructed to enquire into the practicability of the supplying families of soldiers in the field, or families of those killed, and indigent families in the State with cotton yarn, or some material for manufacturing of clothing, at cheaper rates than the present high marketable prices." Mr. Ellis, proposing a committee of enquiry as to how many railroad companies have forfeited or violated their charters and in what way. Mr. Ellis, to prevent the collection of debts in specie. Mr. Wright, to amend section 119, chapter 34, Revised Code.

The unfinished business of yesterday—resolutions protesting against emancipation for public service—being before the Senate,

Mr. Ellis said he had at all times been the friend and supporter of the administration, was so now and would ever be, but as such friend he was unalterably opposed to placing arms in the hands of slaves. So far from putting negroes in the army he would have every one there now kicked out and sent where they could produce something for the support of the country. In his opinion such a measure as using the negro as a soldier would be a giving up of the whole question of slavery. So far from doing this he would make slavery cause Grant's army to ground its arms, Sherman's to halt in its career, bring down the Lincoln government, and swell our ranks by accessions from Europe, and this could be done by giving each present or future soldier in our armies a bounty of one negro fellow. At the conclusion of Mr. Ellis' remarks,

Mr. Hall addressed the Senate, arguing strenuously in favor of the employment of the negro in the military service, and dwelling in particular on the benefits which would arise from the formation of an engineer corps out of this material. Ten per cent. too, of the places now occupied by able-bodied detailed men could be filled by slaves, he believed, and as to their employment as soldiers lessening the productiveness of the country he would say that 35 per cent. of the negroes never make a bushel of grain or a pound of meat. The speaker then combatted the assertion that the army would throw down their arms if associated with negroes and closed by declaring the time had come to make use of the slave—that the salvation of the country depended on its being done.

Mr. Wiggins had always endeavored to support the Government in every way and regretted now that he should have to oppose the President's idea of purchasing 40,000 slaves as soldiers and stimulating them to good behavior by a promise of emancipation. It was unconstitutional, unnecessary, and he protested against it.

Mr. Patton said conscription was nothing but the impressment of the services of white men, and, *a fortiori*, if this could be done, he believed the Government had the right to impress the negroes without the consent of the States.

Pending a further consideration, the Senate adjourned.

In the Commons, on Tuesday, Mr. Little presented a memorial from citizens of Richmond praying the enactment of a law making land trespass a misdemeanor. Mr Love, a resolution of inquiry as to whether the Judgeship of the 8th District be not vacant, he (Judge Reade) not residing in said district.

A communication was received from the Secretary of State showing the number of Magistrates in 88 counties who have qualified and whose resignations have not been accepted, amounting, in the aggregate, to 4036, or about 45 to a county. Wake has 120, the highest number; Chowan 8, the least.

On motion of Mr. Grissom a bill to exempt employees of newspapers from Home Guard duty was taken up, and, under a suspension of the rules, passed, the vote being upon its third reading yeas 57, nays 32.

At 3 p. m., the two Houses met in joint secret session in the Commons Hall. At 6 o'clock the Senate retired to its Chamber and went immediately into secret session, continuing thus till after 7 o'clock.

Correspondence of the Fayetteville Observer.

RALEIGH, Jan 25.

The plot thickens. *Montes parturiunt*—the mountains are in labor; let us hope something more than a ridiculous *mus* will be brought forth. On Tuesday last at 3 P. M. both Houses met in joint secret session in the Commons Hall, continuing therein till 8 P. M., when the Senate retired to its chamber and both Houses proceeded again to secret session in their respective halls, adjourning at 8 o'clock. The joint session is represented as having been an exceedingly excited and boisterous one, the latter of which it certainly was, to judge from the loud, contentious sound of voices which even the massive doors of the Commons hall could not entirely shut in. Conjectures as to the object of the session are rife, but, though not exactly known, it is hinted that Commissioners are to go to Richmond, or perhaps Washington. It is also said that such Commissioners are already appointed, and even divers names—among them that of a great opposition light—are mentioned. A short time will reveal the full nature and results of the discussion.

By a late Report of the Secretary of State it appears that in 88 counties of the State, "the supremacy of the civil law" is upheld by 4036 Magistrates. This Report not including perhaps the late appointees, it will be seen that North Carolina is blessed with a Magistracy of nearly 5000.

The discussion in the Senate, of the resolutions protesting against the policy of emancipation for public services is quite interesting, though as the sentiment of that body seems nearly unanimous against any measure looking to employment of negroes as soldiers, the debate lacks the element of contention to great extent. The present scarcity of provisions and fears of a *quasi* famine in case the labor of the country be still further drawn on, seem to be the great motives leading to this opposition to the President's suggestion.

On Monday night last the local Battalion of this place returned from Wilmington. The propriety of employing ladies permanently in the public offices is now under discussion, and the step it is thought will be taken, thus transferring to the army all able bodied clerks.

Almost immediately on meeting this morning the Senate went into secret session. In the House Mr. Fowle presented a memorial and bill to exempt the municipal authorities of the City of Raleigh. A suspension of the rules in order to permit the passage of the bill was not agreed to, ayes 32, noes 43. A report as to the condition, management, &c. of the Insane Asylum was read. A message having been received from the Senate needing to be considered in secret, the House resolved itself, at 11½ o'clock a. m. into secret session.

T. P.

From Wilmington.—The yankees appear to have left their base in front of Maj. Gen. Hoke's forces yesterday and concentrated at Fort Fisher. Their fleet has also disappeared. They of course hold Fisher. Whether they have re-embarked their main body, we are unable to say. They occupy Smithville, it having been evacuated by our forces.

There was considerable skirmishing around Fort Anderson Saturday evening and Sunday morning. It is supposed the enemy are anxious to silence Anderson, in order to open the way up the river for their gunboats. In this attempt we hope and believe they will meet with sad disappointment. All quiet below last evening at 6 o'clock.

Wil. Journal, 23d.

It is understood that the yankees have sent off all the Confederate prisoners captured at Fort Fisher.

Two yankee deserters who came into our lines on Saturday night, report that the enemy had re-embarked with the exception of a thousand men, constituting a garrison left in Fort Fisher. This may be so; it is at least probable, since the main object of the enemy is already attained by the closing up of our main port.—*Ib*

We have not a single item to report concerning the situation, except the usual "*All quiet below—no change in the relative position of the armies!*"

Carolinian, 24th.

From Richmond.—We had the pleasure of a conversation, on yesterday, with a very intelligent gentleman just arrived from Richmond, where he had opportunities for ascertaining, with reliable accuracy, the condition of affairs. First, we are pleased to learn that Vice President Stephens is open and unqualified in his denunciation of reconstruction. He expresses the most unbounded confidence in our success, and is determined very soon to visit Georgia and address the people to urge them still further to resist the invader. Vice President Stephens, by his present earnestness in the cause, is attracting the confidence of his associates, and his room is thronged with the eminent men of the nation. It is not too late for Mr. Stephens to do much good. He can at least do a great deal to remedy the mischief which his unfortunate views have contributed to work.

Our informant also had an interview with the President. He had not been prepared to be very partial to President Davis, but he was most agreeably disappointed. We would be glad to use the glowing eulogy passed by our informant upon the distinguished head of the nation. It was most eloquent. Among other things, he said with deep feeling, "I left his presence after a most kind, courteous and agreeable reception, deeply impressed with the conviction that he is a whole souled, earnest, devoted, unselfish patriot, whose life and heart and mind are yielded up to the cause."

This gentleman, after an association among the very leaders in Richmond, is satisfied "that important events are about to transpire of the most encouraging character; that Lincoln's government and people know that our subjugation is impossible." "But," says he, "they are laboring might and main to throw their whole strength upon us in the next few weeks. Against this end preparations are being made."—*Raleigh Confederate, 25th.*

Lieut. Stedman.—A letter received from Lt. R. W. Stedman, by his father, states that he is now confined in Fort Delaware, and is still suffering from an old wound, received some months since. Capt. George Sloan and Lieut. H. H. Smith, of our town, and Lt. Jas. Marshall, of Anson, are also there.—*Fay. Telegraph 26th inst.*

BY TELEGRAPH.

REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

President Davis and Gen'l Lee.—RICHMOND, Jan. 24.—The Legislature of Virginia on the 17th inst. adopted resolutions declaring that the appointment of Gen. Lee to the command of the armies of the Confederate States would promote their efficiency, operate powerfully to reanimate their spirit as well as that of the people, and inspire increased confidence in the final success of our cause. These resolutions were communicated to the President who replies that Virginia cannot have higher regard for Gen. Lee, or greater confidence in his character and ability, than is entertained by him. The General, however, has always expressed his inability to assume command of armies other than those now confided to him unless relieved of immediate command in the field of that now opposed to Grant. But the President, in conclusion, assures the General Assembly of Va. that whenever it shall be found practicable for Gen. Lee to assume command of all our armies without withdrawing from the direct command of the army of Northern Virginia, he will deem it promoting the public interest to place him in such command.

Army Movements in South Carolina.—CHARLESTON, Jan. 22.—Two more monitors have arrived, and there are now 10 inside in the Bar. The enemy is reported building a railroad from Port Royal to Pocotaligo and McPhersonville. An armed yankee transport has been up Edisto and Dahoori river sounding channel. It has returned and no other movement is reported.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 24.—The enemy have made no advance movement since reported on the railroad between Salkehatchie and Pocotaligo, where they destroyed ties and burnt iron. Their pickets extend a short distance on this side of Pocotaligo.

Congress.—RICHMOND, Jan. 24.—The Senate was in secret session to-day, considering the Currency Bill. In the House, Mr. Clark, from the Committee on Elections, submitted a report reviewing the circumstances of Mr. Foote's effort to leave the Confederacy, closing with the declaration that he has been guilty of conduct incompatible with duty and his station as a member of Congress, and that he therefore is hereby expelled from the House. Mr. Gilmer presented a majority [minority probably] report justifying Foote's arrest and declaring his conduct deserving of the censure of the House. The majority report was rejected for want of two-thirds in its favor. The yeas were 51, nays 24. The minority report was then adopted.

THE FALL OF FORT FISHER.

From the Raleigh Confederate, 23d inst.

We have received the following account, from the lips of a gentleman who, we are sure, is as accurately informed concerning the late engagement between our forces and the enemy, at Fort Fisher, as any one.

The movement of the enemy was sudden, as we all know. After the previous failure, it was not anticipated that so quick a repetition of the effort would be made. Gen'l Hoke had been withdrawn towards Wilmington, or above it. On Thursday a Mr. McMillan, as our informant heard, discovered from near Topsail Sound the approach of the enemy, and sought to communicate by telegraph to Gen. Bragg the fact; but the operator was not in a condition to send the dispatch, and it became necessary to transmit the news by a messenger. In two hours after the intelligence was received Gen. Hoke was on the march to confront the enemy at his point of landing. On Friday the enemy landed under cover of his fleet, near Battery Gatlin, about nine miles from Fort Fisher. While he was landing Gen. Hoke appeared, and drew up in line parallel, to watch his movements and intercept them when possible to do so. It was not possible to prevent the landing, owing to the situation of the point chosen. The enemy landed on the banks, just above the neck of the Sound, thus interposing a small surface of water between them and an attacking force, or compelling such force to circle around the lower extreme of the Sound; either of which movements would have to be done under fire of the whole fleet.

When Gen. Hoke found this to be the situation, he established a line facing the sea, and threw out what cavalry he required, (if he had it,) on his right flank, towards Battery Anderson, which was down the beach towards Fort Fisher, about four miles. The intervening country here is broken, and the low places are grown up with thick bushes, and are marshy. The purpose of this cavalry was to observe the movements and give the signal of the first advance of the enemy towards establishing a line across the neck of land to the river, it being the order and purpose of Gen. Bragg to have Gen. Hoke attack him as soon as he advanced. In this condition matters rested until Friday night. During that night the enemy, passing between the cavalry and threading their way through the thick marshy undergrowth, made their way to the river, and on Saturday morning Gen. Hoke found an intrenched line on his right flank, extending across the peninsula, from the sea to or near to the river. He succeeded, however, in maintaining his base at Sugar Loaf, immediately changed his line, and informed Gen. Bragg of the status. Then Gen. Bragg gave the order to charge the enemy in their works. In the mean time Gen. Hoke had made a close reconnoissance, under the fire of the enemy, and discovered the strength of their force and position. On receiving the order to charge, he communicated the result of his observations, and asked Gen. Bragg to reconnoitre in person, which he did; and both these officers concurred that it was not proper to assault the lines. It was then determined to reinforce the Fort; and steps were taken which, but for a natural, but as far as we can see, unblameable miscarriage, ought to have succeeded, failed to a great extent. By this time the enemy, four thousand strong, were behind their works, and the fleet proceeded to bombard Fort Fisher, which was done uninterruptedly until Sunday about 6 p. m.

On Sunday the column of assault, numbering about 4000, moved from the enemy's lines, and as they advanced they were plainly visible from Fort Fisher. But her beleaguered garrison was kept close confined within the bomb-proofs by the concentrated and continued fire of 700 guns, pouring torrents of shell and missiles on every spot. On the land side of Fort Fisher we had 17 guns—sufficient, could they have been used, to make it impossible that any force could have advanced under their fire. But as the line of assailants got nearer to the Fort, the whole fleet concentrated the fire, in ricochet shot, on the land side, and speedily dismounted every gun; and this uninterrupted "*feu d'enfer*"—or, in plain English, *hell fire*—was kept up until the enemy's line was in 60 yards of the works. Then it ceased, and with a rush and yell the charge was made. Capt. Braddy, it is said, commanded the company guarding the sally port. On him the hope of the garrison hung to keep the assailants out until the men and officers, who had been packed in the bomb proofs for 56 hours, could get out and make ready. Instead of making defence, this officer and his command, it is said, surrendered, and the enemy entered the open gate.* Our men were benumbed and exhausted, and the thing was the work of a moment. They were obliged to fall back in order to rally. Col. Lamb, with that cool precision which distinguishes him as an officer of *great* merit; brought his men into line near head quarters, Gen. Whiting being present, encouraging and cheering on the troops, and creating enthusiasm by his ardent and whole souled heroism. Under these inspiring influences our men were brought to the charge. The numbers were against them in the proportion of 4000, aided by 2000 marines, to 2000, but they forced the enemy back to the mound, and a hand to hand fight, of unmitigated desperation and fury, ensued, continuing from 7 to about 10 o'clock, when bravery, endurance and devotion failed to overcome numbers. Our men were overpowered, and the work of assault was accomplished. But not until the enemy had paid dearly for his prize. He had not lost a man until he entered the fort. He lost 2000 out of the 6000 that entered the precincts—we 500. Of the courage of our officers and men on this occasion, future tongues will speak.

Foremost in that little band of noble heroes, Whiting was everywhere where peril was most besetting. His voice cheered—his spirit animated—his arm struck down the foeman's flag. He put his life in the hollow of his hand, and held it out a free offering to his country. And he did this so gloriously that, whoever thinks of him in connection with this furious struggle, will yield to the gratification of being absorbed in contemplation of splendid courage.

We are glad to learn that he is but slightly wounded, though in several places; and we mourn the fact that that faithful and true officer, Col. Lamb, is so severely injured. That he may be spared, and blessed with a speedy recovery, ought to be the prayer of all our people.

If there be any fault in this matter, we leave others to find it. However great our loss and sad our disappointment, we feel only like re-echoing the just sentiment of the Conservative: "All honor to the noble defenders of Fort Fisher, if they did not overcome a frightful odds, which mortals could not do."

*Our friends of the Confederate will be glad to know that its correspondent has been misinformed in this particular. Capt. Braddy and his command did their whole duty in the bloody fight.—*Observer.*

SUBJUGATION AND RECONSTRUCTION.

From the Richmond Sentinel.

No wilder hallucination could take possession of the human mind than a belief that we could ever again live with the yankees on terms of equality, or come under the same government with them except as a conquered people. Differences of habit, sentiment and feeling, and diversities of interest, which wise legislation and conservative statesmanship might have reconciled, have, under the counsels of madmen, fit to disturb the peace of all the world, hardened into an enduring antagonism. Violent and exclusive opinions at the North have borne their legitimate fruits. Force has been substituted for reason and all the healing arts of statesmanship. War has torn the two peoples asunder, and placed between them an ocean of blood that will remain—forever. For never can true reconcilement grow, 'where wounds of mortal hate have pierced so deep.'

Let us not deceive ourselves in this matter. Let no weak dreamer drug himself with the anodyne of reconstruction, nor lay to his soul the flattering hope that life would be tolerable without our independence.

Mr. Lincoln has, indeed, vouchsafed to tell us, that the war will cease when we lay down our arms. So the war "ceased" after the battle of Hastings; but the universal spoliation of property, the deprivation of all personal privileges, and the tolling of curfew bells, illustrated the object for which the war was undertaken, and kept long in memory the bitterness of that peace by which it was followed. And so the war "ceased" when the followers of Monmouth laid down their arms. It was in the "peace" which followed subjugation that Jeffrey rode his bloody circuit and left a name of infamy which humanity blushes to own. And so, too, the war "ceased" when the Poles, after their memorable struggle for independence, at last yielded the contest; but for the conquered, the "peace" thus secured meant spoliation, murder, torture, exile—a living death in the dreary mines of Siberia!

But worse than all this; worse than anything to be found on the darkest and the saddest page of human history, would be that "peace" that *we* should gain by abandoning our struggle for independence and bowing the neck to our enemies. Then Mr. Lincoln, in his own elegant phrase, would "run his courts," and through their instrumentality complete the work of robbery and spoliation and ruin. Not only will all our property be swept from us into the public coffers of the yankees, or divided out in portions and rewards to a hireling soldiery, but judicial murders will be the order of the day. All the dark and malignant passions of a vindictive people—drunk with blood and vomiting crime—will be unleashed upon us like bloodhounds upon their prey. Times will return again like those spoken of by Tacitus when he says: "Men impelled by personal hate, and armed with terror, carried rapine and plunder in every direction. Virtue was a source of certain ruin. The guilty acts of informers and their wages were alike detestable. Slaves were practised upon against their masters, and freedmen betrayed their patrons; the ceremonies of religion were violated; the sea crowded with exiles, and rocks stained with the blood of murdered citizens." If any one shall think this a fanciful illustration of what would be our condition if subjugated, let him remember that our enemies have already declared their murderous intentions in advance, and disgraced their statute book by laws which not only authorize, but require, what would result in scenes darker, sadder, more terrible and appalling, if possible, even than those described in the mournful page of the Roman historian.

They have done these things in the 19th century of the Christian era; and so far from a blush of shame, they glory in their infamy, and impatiently long for the day when premeditated crime may take the form of rapacious and bloody fruition. Men are seldom better than they paint themselves; and if they evidence such purposes when policy would counsel moderation and suggest concealment, what may we expect when there is no longer a motive for reserve, or a restraint upon rapacity and revenge?

Between reconstruction and subjugation there is no reason why we should draw a distinction. It would be a distinction without a difference. Lincoln has taken anxious pains to assure us of this. The only reconstruction, the only peace he will allow, is by submission. This is *subjugation*. The reconstruction of Southern dreamers, is not conceived of at the North. But even could we submit upon terms—which would not be allowed us—such reconstruction would be only subjugation in a form scarcely respectable enough to be called a cheat. Both mean slavery to the North—a life without honor, and a future without hope. There would be no practical difference between it and unqualified submission. How vain the effort, how foolish the wish to reconstruct, upon any terms, a Union which perished through the *bad faith* of those whom we should have to trust again!

The world knows how the foundations of the old Union were sapped and destroyed by the moral and political heresy of a *higher law creed*, which derided the solemn obligations of covenanted faith. In politics, broken faith is the unpardonable sin which cannot, must not, be forgiven. It is the *foundation* of all political association. Without it there can be no tranquility, no safety. Charles I. lost his crown and his head because which his royal word was solemnly given, it could not be believed. James II. lost his throne, because his honor, the interests, the liberties of England required new guarantees. And so, we withdrew from the late Union, because, by the bad faith of those who now seek our destruction, the guarantees on which we relied for our security became unavailing and worthless.

Before the world, and calling Heaven to witness, we have solemnly declared, and impartial history will bear witness to the truth of the affirmation, that the bad faith of our late political associates destroyed our association with them. We could no longer trust them, and hence were compelled to dissolve our political relations with them. Less than ever could we trust them now. We have nothing that we can do but maintain our separate existence at all hazards, and to shrink from an association with them as we would shrink from a ruin worse than death. Let us pledge ourselves, if need be, afresh to this resolve. Let us swear by the memory of our immortal dead, by the sufferings of the past, and the hopes of the future; by our ravaged fields and desolated homes; by the tears and sorrows of widowhood; and the cries of helpless orphanage; by the blood of the slain that calls to us from the ground—that we will never, never, have part or lot in any government, which in its every department—executive, legislative and judicial—is under the sole and exclusive control of those who can offer us no guaranty for the future, but the broken faith of the past. This is what manhood and liberty require. This was the spirit that fired the hearts of those who fell so nobly at Thermopylæ, and of those who conquered so gloriously at Marathon. And such was the spirit which dictated the ever memorable reply of the heroic William, of Orange, when, raising himself upon the centre of his own great soul, he solemnly declared before God that he would never abandon his country however desperate her cause; but would defend her to the last extremity, and die in the last ditch. We have but to catch this spirit, to reconsecrate ourselves to our liberty, and to pass from heart to heart the sacred fire of devotion to our country's cause, and we will, we must, be free! Let it be remembered, that the boon of liberty is *never* denied to those who are worthy of it—and they alone are worthy of it, who, in her sacred cause, are determined to do or die. It is so written in the book of fate. It is so recorded in the history of nations. It is so revealed in the providences of God, and proclaimed in the moral agencies which sway the destinies of the world.

THE CONFEDERATE STATES NAVY.

From the Richmond Sentinel.

The circumstances connected with our naval enterprise, require a reticence that mantles much of the merit of our achievements. These circumstances make of the Secretary of the Navy's reports, a sealed book, and frequently subject all connected with the service to temporary obloquy. But the time of triumphant explanation will come some day. Meanwhile, there are some things which may be now said, some facts that ought to be mentioned, because they can be safely mentioned.

The total expenditure, on account of our navy, since the beginning of the war, does not exceed $80,000,000—or as much as it had cost the enemy to build its condemned Monitors up to June, 1864. What have we to show for this sum? In noble efforts, that the open hostility, if not the secret perfidy, of Foreign powers have frustrated, we could shew enough to do full credit to the whole amount. That, however, would be profitless in all except proof of glorious endeavor. But we can show this: the destruction of 191 vessels, belonging to the enemy's commerce. That, for a direct blow dealt at the very vitals of our foe, is much: there is much more within it and beyond it and because of it of an equally telling character.

We have to be concise and cautious, but may be precise at the same time. Take, then, a hurried *resume* of some particulars to which we have gained access. The steamer "Sumter," under the gallant Semmes, captured 17 vessels in her cruise, from July 3, 1861, to January 17, 1862—3 ships, 5 brigs, 6 barks and 3 schooners—for a half year's work. The "Alabama," under the same naval hero, captured 63 vessels, from September 1862, to January, 1864. The greater number of these were very valuable ships, and all but 9 of them were burnt at sea. In the number is included the U. S gunboat "Hatteras" (8 guns, 108 men and 18 officers) which was sunk, in open fight, on the 11th January, 1863. To this list of the Alabama's captures, have to be added 2 vessels brought by her tender, the Tuscaloosa. One of her captures was subsequently commissioned as a cruiser under our flag—as in the case of other captures by other cruizers.

The steamer "Tallahassee," under the command of the intrepid Taylor Wood, captured 33 vessels, during the month of August, 1864. His dashing cruize along the American coast, Northward, was shorn of its richer fruits by the chilling courtesy of the British authorities in Nova Scotia, on whose unfair conduct we had occasion to animadvert, at the time. Of the captures made by Commander Wood, 2 were ships, 4 brigs and 4 barks, the remainder being, for the most part, sea-going and large tonnaged schooners. Only 5 of the whole number were bonded and 2 released, all the rest having been burnt or scuttled.

The "Chickamauga," under the command of John Wilkinson, who has no professional superior in the service, in a short cruize, last November, captured 7 vessels—1 ship, 4 barks, and 2 schooners. The "Georgia," in a few weeks, captured and destroyed 7 ships and 2 barks. The "Florida"—but enough of such details. Here are the shorter mathematical results of all: 58 ships, 32 brigs, 41 barks, 57 schooners—pilot boats and small steamers "extra"—all disposed of at sea by a power which has, popularly, "no navy."

To estimate the value of these sea-captures let us strike an average. The "Jacob Bell" (one of the most valuable) was set down as worth, at least, $2,040,000, ship and cargo: the "Orelea," as proven value, $950 000; the "Star of Peace" at $900,000; the "Anglo Saxon" at $85,000—others more and others less. Allow for the few bonded, and then draw a moderate average—say $500,000 for each ship and cargo, and you have about $30,000,000 worth of property in ships destroyed at once. The brig "Estelle" was valued, under mark, at $130,000; the "Windward" at $44,000—say, for each brig and cargo, $50,000, and you have $1,600,000 additional. Carrying out the great moderation of this estimate, set each bark down at $40,000 and each schooner at $25,000, (several of both were three times either amount,) and you have an aggregate of $34,605,000 destroyed, *directly*, by our navy. Is that nothing? Ask the New York Chamber of Commerce and take its doleful answer. But that is only as to the *direct* loss inflicted. How are we to give, or get, any approximate estimate of the indirect damage done to the enemy's commerce? Only by indirect means, and we take these to be such:

"In 1850 the aggregate United States tonnage sold to foreigners was 13,467: in 1860 it was about the same; while, in 1863, it was 1,500,000. This covers the "white washing" process, and has sent more than one line of American clippers, usually hailing from New York or Boston, or Baltimore, to sea as Liverpool or London vessels. Has that change of figures no tale to tell for the little navy? Does it say nothing "eloquently well" for "indirect loss?"

But, more: In 1330 there was employed in the United States coasting trade (deducting the Southern coasts) an enrolled and licensed tonnage equal to 406,978 (tons and 95ths;) in 1840 this had augmented to 983,018; ten years later it stood at 1,300,210; and in 1860 it had swollen to the splendid proportions of 1,735,863. What is it now? On yankee semi official authority, in 1863, it had dwindled down to what it was in 1840. In giving these diminishing numbers the Shipping Journal (Weymouth, England,) significantly says: "The ravages of Confederate cruisers will soon have frightened the Federal coasting trade into its narrow dimensions of 1830."

Still more: The New Bedford Standard, of a recent date, (as quoted in the United States news of this journal on the 14th inst.,) tells us that, whereas the tonnage engaged in the whale fishing in 1846 was 230,218, it does not *now* reach 80,000 tons. In the first of this set of figures we detect an under statement; for the official records show that, in 1846, the American tonnage in the whale fishing was 439,580. It would not do to note the vastness of the fall—its force had to be lightened. To allow this fact its full weight, we should remember that, in 1846, whale oil (sperm) sold at 60 cents—now it sells, according to the above Bedford paper, at $1 95½ a gallon; and bone that sold in 1846, at a dime a pound, now brings nearly $2.

To these self-reasoning waifs add this most suggestive one: "The insurance on vessels trading with the States is alarming," cries the Portland Gazette, of September 21st, 1864. "None of us can be blind enough not to see that our own direct shipping interests are in a ruinous condition, as well from the effects of exorbitant insurance as from the cowardly prudence of ship owners.

"The policy pursued at Lloyd's, which sets the example for the insurance office, is an evil that may do us permanent harm it it is not at once corrected. Between the poltroonery of ship owners, and Confederate *privateers*, our shipping interests *must* give way. At present we know of few American ships, genuine American bottoms, except such as carry guns aboard. Is not this deplorable?". Very; but, we hope the condition that has brought it about, will increase daily, until only peace shall make room for other genuine American vessels than gunboats &c.

We have exhausted our space, but by no means the evidence, direct and indirect, which we could adduce in proof of the pleasing fact that our little navy has been vehemently, yet, in some sense, noiselessly at work, wherever it could accomplish most. The subject, with the attestations that pertain to it, is one to which we shall recur.

YANKEE RAIDERS IN VIRGINIA.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., Jan. 25, 1865.

Messrs E J. Hale & Sons: I received this morning a letter from a niece, living in Madison county, Va, on the Upper Rapidan, giving an account of the doings of the yankees in their late raid through that section. The lady alluded to in my niece's letter, and who defended herself and premises from yankee intrusion, is well known to me. Her husband belongs to the gallant Mosby's command. I make some extracts which you are at liberty to publish if you think proper.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

WM A BANKS.

"Jan'y 10th, 1865.

* * * "We have had a very cold winter, accompanied with a great deal of snow and ice, but this has not prevented the yankees visiting us. They came in a few days before Christmas by way of Spergyville and down the Robinson river, spreading desolation as they came. There is not a house in their track which was not plundered by them. They carried off a great deal of clothing and bed-clothing with them and such as was not carried off they tore up. Provisions and provender were destroyed, crockery broken, and knives, forks and spoons carried away. Some wealthy families have not a change of clothing or a blanket to cover with.

Every house at Madison C. H. was robbed except two, one belonging to Mr. E——, taken for headquarters, and the other was cousin C——'s She armed herself with a pistol and stood in her door and dared them to enter, which challenge they thought it prudent to decline. Cousin S. R—— has nothing left in her house. The yankees took everything from her that they did not destroy. It was very cold the night after the scamps left and she had to sit up by the fire. They emptied her beds and stirred them up with molasses and lampblack. I could not begin to tell you in the short limits of a letter the damage they did in a week. They sent us word that they would pay us a visit, but our Southern boys broke up their programme. *****"

Georgia.—MACON, Jan. 26.—Gov. Brown has called a meeting of the Legislature here on Feb. 14, to finish up the business interrupted by the yankees at Milledgeville.

The Grand Ladies' Bazaar in Columbia closed on Friday evening last. The affair was a great success, netting, as one of the Columbia papers hints, something like a quarter of a million of dollars.—*Charleston Mercury.*

Volunteering in New York.—In the Bureau of Military Statistics at Albany it is estimated that $65,000,000 in local bounties was paid to volunteers in the State of New York during the past year.

The independence of the Confederacy is to be achieved more surely by the sheer force of endurance than by anything else, and even if we should fail to accomplish it by the signal strokes of military fortune, it will be worked out at the last; and that much more speedily than is generally supposed, says the Richmond "Examiner," by a simple competition of the real resolution of the South with a confidence in the North, now bloated and swaggering, but really on the verge of the last and fatal necessity.

TAKEN UP,

AND committed to the Jail of Duplin county, as a runaway, a negro man who says his name is GEORGE, and belongs to Miss Bettie Rogers of Robeson county, N. C. The owner of said negro is notified to come forward, prove property, pay charges and take him away, otherwise he will be dealt with as the law directs.

JOHN W. HINSON, Shff.

Kenansville, Jan'y 27. 5-7tpd

Sale of Bank Stock and other articles at Auction.

ON Tuesday the 7th day of February next, at the Market House in the Town of Fayetteville, at 12 o'clock M., I will sell for cash,

10 Shares of the Capital Stock of the Bank of North Carolina.

6 Shares of the Capital Stock of the Bank of Clarendon.

1 Stove with pipe complete; weights and beam for Scales, good as new; 1 or 2 cutting Knives of the best patterns, and perhaps other articles

W. DRAUGHON, Aud'r.

Jan'y 25. 4 1t

Handsome Silver Plated Ware

AT AUCTION.

ON Thursday next the 2d Feby 1865, will be sold at Auction, a beautiful Tea and Dinner set of DOUBLE PLATED SILVER WARE, consisting of TEA and WATER POT, Cream Pot and Sugar Dish, Sugar Tongs, large Pitcher, Salver and Napkin Rings

JNO H HOOK, Auc'r.

Jan'y 26. 4 2

Fayetteville Arsenal and Armory
Q. M. Office, Jan'y 24, 1865.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this office until the 1st day of February 1865, for the delivery, at such times and in such quantities as the Quartermaster may require, of one hundred and fifty cords of OAK WOOD, and three hundred cords of PINE WOOD said wood must conform to the standard measurement, viz: 8x4x4.

J. M. McGOWAN,
Capt and A. A. Q. M.

4 1t*2.

For Rent.

A DESIRABLE DWELLING in the centre of town, containing eight large rooms, with necessary outhouses. Apply to

W. A. WHITEHEAD.

Jan'y 26. 4tf

Fayetteville Candle Factory.

PERSONS wishing to have candles moulded will please leave their tallow with

A. M. CAMPBELL.

Jan'y 25. 4-3tpd

An Overseer Wanted.

I WANT to employ an OVERSEER. He must be clear of conscript, and sober, steady and attentive; one in whom confidence can be placed. Early application is desirable.

JAS. G COOK.

Jan'y 26. 4-2t

A Piano Wanted.

I WANT to purchase a GOOD PIANO, which I will pay for in Confederate money or in cotton. The cotton is in a safe place and may remain there until wanted.

JAS. G. COOK.

Jan'y 26. 4 2t

Superior Salt.

ON consignment, and for sale or barter for corn or bacon, at the office of

MOORE & CASHWELL.

Jan'y 26. 4-1mpd

WANTED,

HIDES to tan on shares. Terms ½ Leather or its equivalent in cash. We can tan it in a very short time if desired by Hickle's patent. Persons wishing their Hides tanned can send them to our address to Egypt Depot, where they will be taken from and Leather delivered at our expense. Our address is Beaumont, Chatham County

W. D. WATSON & CO

Reference Messrs. G W Williams & Co, Fayetteville.

Jan'y 25. 4 2mpd

The Enterprise Cotton Factory

is now prepared to exchange for corn or bacon the

Finest Numbers of Seine Yarn,

suitable for Spring and Summer Cloth. This Thread is of a superior quality, not surpassed by any in the Confederacy.

E. M. STEDMAN & BRANDT

Fayetteville, Jan'y 25.

AVON E. HALL,

Forwarding & Commission Merchant,

WILL give quick despatch to goods consigned to him. Particular attention given to all produce sent him for sale. Consignments of Naval Stores for sale or shipment, solicited.

Wilmington, Jan'y 19

THE INSANE ASYLUM OF NORTH CAROLINA.

From the report of the accomplished Superintendent of the Insane Asylum we cull some facts.

On the 31st of October, 1862, there were in the Asylum 195 patients. Since that time there have been admitted 81. There are now in the institution 180, of whom 96 are males. Of the 96 discharged or died within the last two years, 23 were recovered, and 48 died. The large number of deaths was caused by the extraordinary prevalence of diseases of a Typhoid type. A number of admissions have been made from the army, and it is stated that the proper authorities are taking the necessary steps to establish in this State an Asylum for the insane soldiers of all the States.

Of the 276 patients under treatment within the last two years, it is noticeable that a large majority, 161, are unmarried. 21 widows are reported insane, while only 3 widowers are found in that unfortunate state.

The following table will show the forms of insanity under which the patients suffered:

Mania,	175	Dementia,	33
Epilepsy,	17	Imbecility,	33
Melancholy,	9	Suicidal,	3
Puerperal,	1	Homicidal,	3

The causes of insanity have been various, and suggest sad reflections to a thoughtful mind. We notice disappointment in love, loss of husbands, (not of wives,) of property, of parents, of friends, of children, jealousy, pecuniary difficulties, hard study, use of opium, intemperance, disease, and as we feared, no less than sixteen have been deprived of reason by THE WAR.

Among the countless evils of this great strife, our noble Asylum is struggling to alleviate the sorrows of the unfortunate insane. Although few other things may be saved from the wreck, all must pray that war shall not blast that.

Ral. Conservative.

Death of A. M. Gorman, Esq.—We record with unfeigned regret the death of A. M. Gorman, Esq., the Junior Editor of the Confederate of this city. This announcement will be received with general regret and surprise. It was only last Friday that he was closely engaged in his arduous labors in his office. That night he complained of being unwell and took his bed. Up to Monday night, although his disease developed itself as erysipelas, no apprehension was felt. But on Tuesday morning it assumed a most violent form which continued to increase, causing great pain and suffering and terminated his earthly existence between eleven and twelve o'clock that night. Mr. Gorman was in the 51st year of his age. He was a native of this city, learned the printing business when a boy, with the late Joseph Gales, Esq., of the Register, and for some years after attaining his majority, lived in Georgia, where he first married. He returned to this city some years ago, and in 1848 established the Spirit of the Age, a paper which, under his able management, maintained for years a deserved popularity in the State and in the South. For nearly a year he has been associated with Col. McRae in the conduct of the Confederate, to the popularity of which paper he has contributed much.

Mr. Gorman was an excellent citizen, a man of a genial and kind spirit, benevolent and charitable, and a warm hearted friend. A more devoted husband and father we have not known. Losing his first wife, he married an accomplished lady of Virginia some nine years ago, whom he leaves a sorrowing widow with four children to lament their loss. The death of such a man is a public loss.—*Ral. Conservative.*

Death of Benj. A. Kittrell.—Benjamin A Kittrell, Esq., of Lexington, died, some two weeks ago, at his house in that place. He was a young gentlemen of liberal University education and was largely read in polite and elegant literature. He had not been at the bar many years, but he had made considerable reputation as a clear-headed counsellor. Socially, he was a gentleman of a genial and sunny nature. He was fond of his friends and a true-hearted companion. All who knew him will mourn, that he passed so early from this theatre of action to the eternal home of mankind.—*Greensboro' Patriot.*

Mr. Kittrell was formerly President of the Bank of Lexington, and in the State Convention of 1861 was a Delegate from Davidson County. He was a native of Granville.

North Carolina Troops.—The Richmond Dispatch says:—

"In the fall of Fort Fisher the troops of the Confederacy have lost a fort, but not their honor. North Carolina, in particular, has reason to be proud of the prowess of her sons. This is not the first, the second, nor even the fiftieth time, that the soldiers of that State have proved the mettle whereof they are made. There are no better soldiers in the Confederacy or the world. There is very little gas or humbug about North Carolina; but, at the pinch of the hill, she is always strong and true. We have no words to express our admiration of the stern and steadfast heroism she has exhibited in this war."

North Carolina Resolutions.—In the Confederate Senate, on the 21st inst. Mr. Graham presented resolutions of the N. C. Legislature urging the passage of a law to allow pay to soldiers discharged from the army on account of being disabled, such as is given to those who are placed on the retired list, but not actually discharged; also, a resolution of the same, urging the brigading in brigades from their State of all N. C. troops. Also, a resolution of the same relative to the expenses of executing the conscript law in North Carolina.

Military Discharges.—In the House of Representatives last week, Mr. Smith of Georgia reported from the Military Committee the following bill, which was passed:

"The Congress of the Confederate States do enact, That the non-commissioned officer, musician or private who has lost, or may hereafter lose, in the line of his duty in the military service, an arm, leg, hand or foot, shall be discharged from said service upon his application therefor, and, after such discharge, shall be exempt from military service of any kind whatever."

Resigned.—Rev. W. R. Gualtney, Chaplain 1st N. C. Troops, and Capt. A. Jarrett, Co. C, 26th N. C. Troops, have resigned.

Ral. Conservative.

Heavy Sleet.—This section of the country was last week visited by the heaviest sleet which has fallen within the memory of our oldest men. A great deal of timber has been broken down by it. We believe sleets presage good fruit crops.

Greensboro' Patriot.

Sleet.—The sleet of Friday night and Saturday was the heaviest and most damaging to timber of any known in this section for many years. The shade and fruit trees in town were nearly all damaged, and in many cases ruined. Forest trees were also damaged, and sometimes uprooted by their accumulated loads of ice. The telegraph lines South and East were broken in numerous places.—*Salisbury Watchman, 24th.*

For Sale.—The Tarboro' Southerner is now offered for sale and unless disposed of privately, will be sold at public auction on Tuesday of February Court.

General-in-Chief.—Congress last week removed the injunction of secrecy from a bill passed to provide for appointment of a General-in Chief of the armies of the Confederate States, as follows:

"The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That there shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, an officer who shall be known and designated as General in Chief, and who shall be the ranking officer of the army, and who, as such, shall have command of the military forces of the Confederate States.

"SECTION 2. That the act providing a staff for the General who may be assigned to duty at the seat of Government is hereby repealed, and that the General-in-Chief who may be appointed under the provisions of this act shall have a staff not less than that now allowed a general in the field, to be assigned by the President, or to be appointed by him, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate."

Gen. Johnston.—The injunction of secrecy has been removed and the following resolution passed by Congress made public:

"Resolved, That if the President will assign General Joseph E. Johnston to the command of the Army of Tennessee, it will, in the opinion of the Congress of the Confederate States, be hailed with joy by the army and receive the approval of the country."

Cabinet changes.—It was reported yesterday that the Hon. J. P. Benjamin, Secretary of State, had sent in his resignation. We think this is true, though we have no positive information on the subject.

It is understood that Mr Seddon was induced to resign by action taken by the Virginia Congressional delegation. These gentlemen, it appears, sent in to the President an official announcement that they had lost confidence in all the members of the Cabinet except Mr. Trenholm, and asked for a change. Mr. Seddon being informed of this action, immediately sent in his resignation.—*Rich. Dispatch.*

The Exemption Bill.—The House of Representatives, says the Richmond Dispatch, has passed an exemption bill, which provides radical changes in the present exemption law. It repeals absolutely the fifteen-negro law; provides that no mail contractor under forty-five years of age shall be exempt, and limits the power of detail hitherto rested in the hands of the President and Secretary of War. We have no reason to believe the bill, in its present form, will pass the Senate. The sense of the Senate, as recently incidentally expressed in debate, is in favor of leaving untouched the exemption law now in force.

Recognition.—A report is being circulated that France and England intend after the 4th of March next, to recognize Lincoln as the President of the Northern States and to recognize the South as an independent nation. This is founded on a Paris letter, published in the Northern papers two weeks ago. Paris newspaper correspondents notoriously draw upon their imaginations for their facts.—*Rich. Dispatch.*

A Circular from Gen. D H. Hill.—Gen. Hill, now commanding at Augusta, issued on Tuesday last a circular of which the first paragraph is as follows:—

"All non-combatants are respectfully requested to leave the city immediately. If their removal be delayed until the emergency shall have arrived, no railroad facilities can be allowed them. In the class of non-combatants are included all young gentlemen who have no relish for the trenches. These are exhorted to leave at once under the escort of the old ladies."

Deaths of South Carolina Soldiers during the War.—The following is a recapitulation of the whole loss, as classified by the "Roll of Honor" agent:

Brigadier Generals	4
Colonels	20
Lieutenant Colonels	15
Majors	10
Captains	128
Lieutenants	348
Staff Officers	56
Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates,	7,074
Total	7,625

Yankee News from the West.—MOBILE, Jan. 24.—Memphis papers of the 21st report that Thomas has arrived at Bastport and that an attack will be made on the flank of Hood's army within a fortnight. The yankee Gen. Meagher with several thousand troops from Chattanooga is reported to have arrived at Nashville en route to join Sherman at Savannah via New York. A raid on Memphis by Forrest is expected.

What the Yankees think of Traitors.—A yankee letter from Savannah says:—

A large number of citizens have expressed a desire to take the oath of allegiance, or have already done so. Mr. G. B. Lamar, one of the most prominent, as he was one of the earliest rebels in the State, has applied to be permitted to take the oath, but permission has not as yet been granted. He is too ready to change his coat, as all his interests lie in town. He has a quantity of cotton he may desire to save; but he will be unable to accomplish his cherished design. His record is too clear and conclusive to promise success in his efforts to pull the wool over the eyes of the authorities.

Nearly all the traders in town have taken the oath, and have promised to open their places of business and carry on trade as before. The Hebrew persuasion is well represented in this class, and not one has presented himself who has not, from first to last, remained a firm Union man—a regular Gibraltar, against which the waves of secession and rebellion rolled and broke in vain. They were never cajoled into the rebel ranks, nor driven in by threats. Such a band of pure, unselfish patriots, and honest, straightforward men never existed before; and Savannah feels honored, I doubt not, to-day, in being the asylum for these spotless patriots to pass their last days in. One, an Alderman, is accused by many of raising the first rebel flag in the city; but this accusation cannot be true, because he says he is a Union man. Others have been unfortunate enough to place their autographs to little documents, suggesting investigations into charges of disloyalty to the rebel Government, which documents are now in military hands, to be used in good time.

Gen. Sherman.—The Georgia paper of yankee proclivities has been telling the people out there that Gen. Sherman is opposed to meddling with slaves. Gen. Sherman himself has written a letter, denying the report that he was opposed to changing the *status* of slavery in the South, and saying that he is in favor of putting all the able-bodied negroes obtainable in the army.

Tennessee Yankee Convention.—The Tennessee Convention passed, by nearly a unanimous vote, a resolution that no person should be considered as qualified to vote until he shall take a stringent oath declaring himself unreservedly in favor of the Union and all laws and proclamations issued by President Lincoln or Congress since the war began.

The California papers publish "marriages," "births," "divorces," and "deaths" in regular order. This is systematising the thing.

WAR NEWS

Gen Hood's withdrawal from Command of the Army of Tennessee.—HDQR'S. ARMY OF TENN., TUPELO, Jan'y 23.—Soldiers! at my request I have this day been relieved from the command of this army. In taking leave of you accept my thanks for the patience with which you have endured the hardships of the recent campaign. I am alone responsible for its conception, and strove to do my duty in its execution. I urge upon you the importance of giving your entire support to the distinguished soldier who now assumes command. I shall look with deep interest upon all your future operations and rejoice at your success. JNO. B HOOD, Gen.

The James River Fleet.—RICHMOND, Jan. 25.—The Confederate fleet in James river attempted to pass the obstructions yesterday. The wooden gunboat Drewry, carrying 1 gun, ran aground, was abandoned and blown up. The iron clad Fredericksburg passed the obstructions, but returned in consequence of the Virginia and Richmond running upon the Shoals between the Dutch Gap canal and Howlett's. They got off at high tide and returned with the Fredericksburg to their usual moorings.

Sherman's Movements.—CHARLESTON, Jan'y 25.—A large body of troops from Savannah are reported moving on the Augusta road.

A raid against Weldon.—PETERSBURG, Jan. 26.—A large yankee raiding party, infantry and cavalry, is reported moving up the Chowan in the direction of Weldon.

From Wilmington.—Reports current on the Street this morning relative to the re appearance of some 60 sail of the enemy's fleet, were not confirmed by any information received at headquarters here, from Gen. Hoke, up to 8 o'clock this morning. On the contrary, everything is reported quiet below, and no change in the fleet.

Journal, 26th.

From the Roanoke.—The only additional intelligence we have of the yankee movement towards Weldon is that a force is pushing on from the direction of the Albemarle sound. They had crossed the Chowan river at last accounts.

Goldsboro State Journal, 26th.

A friend of ours in Eastern North Carolina, writing under date of the 24th inst., says:

"There is certainly a Yankee raid to Weldon or Halifax, as six thousand Yankees landed at Colerain, sent thirty or forty cavalry to Harrellsville, who captured three of Capt. Beamon's men and returned. We captured one of their men.

A report now reaches us that the whole party, 1,500 cavalry, 4,000 infantry, and 15 pieces of artillery, are advancing by Rich Square."

We presume that the authorities are properly informed, and looking after the affairs in that quarter.—*Ral. Conservative, 27th.*

From the United States.—RICHMOND, Jan. 26.—U S papers of the 23d say that the greater portion of the large vessels of Porter's Wilmington fleet has returned to Hampton Roads. They report that 5 blockade runners, ignorant of the fall of Fisher, ran in at New Inlet and had been captured.

A letter from Philadelphia says that Mr Blair has full authority from Lincoln to give safe conduct to Washington for peace commissioners from President Davis. The National Intelligencer, announcing Blair's second visit to Richmond, says "we have good reason authorizing us to say that Mr. Blair goes to Richmond upon no hollow, heartless mission, but upon one of substance, giving people hope that an opportunity will be afforded for closing the war by negotistion." The Herald says that Seward has most friendly relations with the managers of the Intelligencer.

A Cairo telegram of the 21st says that Thomas's Army is going into winter quarters now building at Eastport on the Tennessee River, and will not probably move from that point.

The Toronto (Canada) Leader says that the British Gov't has ordered 30 gunboats carrying 3500 trained men to the Lakes on the yankee frontier.

Gen. Henry Wilson is re-elected Senator from Massachusetts. Gold has advanced to 210.

The spirit of the Army.—RICHMOND, Jan. 27.—The 53d Va. Reg't have unanimously adopted resolutions declaring their purpose to fight for liberty and self government as long as the Confederacy can furnish a cartridge, and to every dishonorable offer of peace on submission, made by the enemy, they will reply with the crack of the rifle. The last resolution reads: "These are our sentiments, and we call upon the people at home and the authorities to support and rally to us; and, with God's blessing, we will bear the Southern Cross through fire and blood, till each star upon it shall glow and shine forth in the firmament of nations."

Gen Lee's Opinions.—RICHMOND, Friday, January 6.—A distinguished member of Congress called on Gen. Lee a few days ago, to talk over the state of the country. Gen. Lee said he saw nothing in the military situation to justify despondency, much less despair. His only fear was that the disease of depression might be permitted to spread among the people. If this could be prevented, he was sanguine of success. The member of Congress was opposed to the use of slaves as soldiers, but Gen. Lee's arguments induced him to withdraw all opposition. Gens. Longstreet and Ewell concur with Gen. Lee.

Correspondence Charleston Mercury.

The Blair Mission.—RICHMOND, Jan. 27.—There have been no reliable developments relative to Blair's mission, though it is generally supposed he is prepared for re-union on such terms as the Confederate authorities may submit.

Sec'y of War.—RICHMOND, Jan. 27.—Mr. Seddon continues to act as Secretary of War. The position was certainly tendered to Gen. Breckinridge.

Change in the Command of the Second Corps.—A letter from Gen. Lee's army announces that Maj. Gen. Gordon has been placed in command of the Second corps, lately commanded by Lieut. Gen. Early.—*Richmond Examiner.*

Foote again on the Wing.—The Hon. H. S. Foote, of Tennessee, left the city yesterday morning by the Fredericksburg train, *en route* for Prince George county, Virginia.

Richmond Paper, 25th.

Yankee Steamer captured.—The Memphis Democrat says that the steamer Verango was captured and burned by guerillas on the 8th inst., near Skipworth's landing. The passengers and crew were taken prisoners. Among the former was a cotton speculator from New York—name not given—from whom the guerillas took sixty thousand dollars in greenbacks.

Trans Mississippi.—Col. W A. Broadwell, Chief of the Cotton Bureau, Trans-Mississippi Department, has purchased and introduced into the Department, pledging payment in cotton, 13,800 pairs of blankets, 60,000 pairs of shoes, 150,000 yards of shirting and towels, 150,000 pounds of powder, 200,000 pounds of lead, 5,000,000 percussion caps and a large quantity of guns, 140,000 yards gray army cloth and sattinet, and a large quantity of hardware, copper, saltpetre, and a great quantitity of small stores.

OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 1865.

ANOTHER CHANGE OF TERMS.

About six weeks ago, discovering that instead of yielding something to our support the Observer was requiring from us a large amount to support it, it became necessary to advance our prices. The ink with which the notice was printed had scarcely had time to dry when the price of paper and of labor was advanced 50 per cent. The enormous cost of the necessaries of life requires other large advances to enable our printers to live, and the price of the Observer must again be increased. From and after this date, therefore,

The price of the Semi-Weekly Observer will be $20 for six months; and of the Weekly Observer $15 for six months. Subscriptions not received for a longer period than six months. All remittances received after this date by mail, in ignorance of these rates, and in expectation of lower prices, will be returned by mail, as otherwise the subscriber would have reason to complain.

January 26, 1865.

☞ PEACE MOVEMENTS.—The re-appearance in Richmond of Mr. Blair, Lincoln's unaccredited emissary, has of course renewed and greatly added to the public expectation of negotiations for peace. We copy several paragraphs on the subject.

Our opinion is, very decidedly, that Lincoln is intent upon making peace, and that speedily. But it is a peace upon terms such as the Confederacy cannot and ought not to listen to, viz: peace with reunion, and abolition. These are the terms said to be offered by Blair, for Lincoln. To accept them would be to disgrace and ruin the South. After forty years of encroachments, great and small, the South resisted, seeing only ruin ahead as the result of further submission. She has established a government; waged four years of war in which she has won the admiration of the world; has buried tens of thousands of her bravest and best, who fell in defence of her rights; has suffered innumerable evils at the hands of the enemy which only incarnate devils would inflict; and at last is asked to unite again with these very devils, to hug to her bosom the murderers of her sons, the violators of her women, the burners of her dwellings, the robbers of her substance, the destroyers even of her ploughs and hoes, with the terrible purpose of starving her people by depriving them of implements for cultivating the earth! The idea is monstrous! It is impossible for Southern people again to unite with such enemies, to fight side by side with those whom they have so often fought face to face. We can imagine wars which end with mutual respect, which leave no bitterness behind them, no wrongs the recollection of which cannot be obliterated by peace. But this has not been such a war. Time can never extract the sting of its outrages, as it could never wash out the dishonor of re-union with a people who have compelled us to abhor them, with nothing gained, everything lost that we have fought for and suffered for, and for which so many thousands of gallant spirits have sacrificed their lives.

But why is Lincoln all at once so intent upon peace? Why does he—sneakingly indeed but actually—send a Commissioner to Richmond, after having constantly refused even to receive one, and after having so often declared that he would never treat until after the rebels had laid down their arms and ceased to fight? We think the reason is obvious. The great powers of Europe, England, France, Spain, and perhaps others, *are about to recognise the Confederacy*. Lincoln knows this, through his Ministers at those Courts, and would anticipate it by getting the best terms he can extort from a people whom he imagines to be nearly conquered, and to be ignorant of the important change which this European recognition will bring about.

It is a singular coincidence, that a few days ago we were talking over the reasons which might induce the European powers now to make that recognition which they have so long wrongfully delayed, and settled upon the very reason which a few hours afterwards came to us from the New York Tribune as that actually taken by these powers, viz: that at the Presidential Election in 1860, all the States voted, and Lincoln was therefore elected President of the whole United States. At the election in 1864, only the Northern States voted. In the mean time the South had established a government, elected a President, and for four years maintained a *de facto* government. At the end of Lincoln's present term, therefore, there is a plausible reason for considering the separation as complete and the two governments as independent nations. And so on the 4th of March, it is said, the Confederacy is to be formally recognized. The following is the article from the Tribune, which came so speedily in confirmation of our own impressions:

"The recent letter of Earl Russell, in which he talked loosely and very undiplomatically about the former relations between Great Britain on the one side, and the Northern States and the Southern States on the other, seems to have given rise to a crop of Canadian rumors to this effect: That upon the inauguration of President Lincoln in March next, Great Britain, France & Co., will recognize him merely as President of those States which took part in the election.

"The Montreal Telegraph takes the trouble to make a leader out of this talk; obvious like the rest of this one decisive fact: that Great Britain or any other European Power officially knows the Government of the United States, and it only. With the constituent elements of that Government, no European power has any concern, and, as for assuming to take diplomatic notice of the details of an election—what States voted and what chose not to vote in the recent contest—that would be an impertinence which even Great Britain may be supposed reluctant to venture on. As well say she will not recognize Mr. Lincoln as President of any State, which, participating in the election, voted for McClellan, and so send ambassadors to New Jersey and Delaware. The Canada Secesh had better try again."

Another rather curious coincidence may be stated: On the day after this Tribune paragraph came to hand, we received a business letter, of the 25th inst., from Brooklin, Robeson county, N. C., a remote place to which the Richmond and Northern reports had not then penetrated, which contained the following statement:—

"I saw a man last night who helped to put off the bearer of dispatches from a steamer which ran in near enough to Shallotte, near Wilmington, to land him. He gave them to understand that England and France had recognised us, and that was his business to Richmond. He was conveyed through to Whiteville. This was after Fort Fisher fell."

We would not too highly excite the expectations of our readers, for all this *may* end in disappointment. We think, however, that they may hope, as we do, that a great change is about to take place in the prospects of the Confederacy, either peace with independence or recognition, one or both. *Either* will be an event for which all have anxiously and earnestly prayed. *Both* will crown with unfading glory the valor of our troops, and carry happiness into every home and every heart in the Confederacy.

Should either, or even both, be still denied us, let us still cherish the noble spirit of the Virginia regiment, recorded in another column, and resolve, with them, never to give up the struggle till its rich and legitimate results are secured—Separation and Independence.

PEACE COMMISSIONERS GONE TO WASHINGTON!—Since the above was in type the telegraph has brought the heart cheering intelligence that three Commissioners were appointed on Saturday, and were to leave Richmond for Washington City yesterday, to confer with the authorities there on the subject of Peace! May the Almighty Disposer of events, in His wisdom and mercy, bring their mission to a successful issue, that we may be blessed with "a speedy, an honorable, and a lasting Peace!"

This promising event is undoubtedly the first result of Mr. Blair's two visits to Richmond. Of course he must have been authorised to invite such a mission, an invitation which President Davis, in spite of all the ridiculous assertions of bad and disloyal men to the contrary, was glad promptly to accept. What caused this sudden change in the purposes of the Lincoln government, can only be conjectured, but we can hardly be wrong in attributing it to a knowledge of forthcoming European recognition, and probably intervention. Only a few days ago that government reiterated its oft expressed determination never to treat with rebels while they had arms in their hands, and that there could only be peace when those rebels ceased to fight. Now negotiation is invited. Be the cause of this sudden change what it may, it is a change to be deeply thankful for.

A better selection of Commissioners could not have been made. They are all men of marked ability. Messrs. Hunter and Campbell have been uniformly and earnestly devoted to the cause. And Mr. Stephens, who became wrong-headed during a year's seclusion in Georgia, sick and surrounded by bad influences, has become all right since his return to his nigh station in Richmond, where he has had an opportunity to study the whole field and to mingle with true hearted men. Being now all right, he is acceptable to the Confederacy, whilst perhaps no other man that we could send would be likely to exert a better influence upon the enemy. Mr. Hunter, who is named at the head of the Commission, was for many years one of the most eminent Senators in the old Congress, as he is in that of the Confederacy, and knows all the men with whom he will come in contact, including the most cunning of them all—Seward. Judge Campbell was a Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States—appointed by President Pierce—and, unlike Judges Wayne and Catron, resigned that office to unite his fate and fortune with the Confederacy. He was one of the three Commissioners sent to Washington by the Provisional government at Montgomery to negotiate for a peaceable separation. They were grossly cheated by Lincoln and Seward then, and he will be the more on his guard now in consequence. He is now Assistant Secretary of War.

PRESIDENT DAVIS'S CABINET.—The disruption of the Cabinet is an event of considerable importance, and the cause which produced it curious. All the Virginia Congressional Delegation but one united in a recommendation that all of the Cabinet, except Mr. Trenholm, should resign. Mr. Seddon instantly complied. We are not sure, but strongly suspect, that the principal aim was to get rid of the incumbents of the State, Navy and Post Office Departments—Messrs. Benjamin, Mallory and Reagan—who are and have long been unwelcome occupants of their places.

The Enquirer characterizes as "a shocking rumor" an "alarming report" that Gen. Bragg was to succeed Mr. Seddon. It says the rumor is absurd, that the Senate would not confirm such a nomination, yet that it produced universal gloom.

The Congressional recommendation of a General-in-Chief for the Armies, with a certainty that no other than Gen. Lee will be thought of for that place; and the further recommendation that Gen. Johnston be restored to the command of Hood's army, appear to have produced the very opposite of gloom in Richmond. They have inspired new hopes and confidence. The Richmond Whig breaks forth thus:—

"All hail to the new dispensation! Gen. Lee is to have entire command of our armies in the field. General Johnston is to return to the Army of Tennessee. We are to have a new Secretary of War—possibly a new cabinet, with the exception of the Secretary of the Treasury. These are great and beneficent changes, if the President heed, as he cannot but do, the voice of the country uttered with great unanimity by its representatives in Congress. All honor to those who, in this perilous hour, have had the wisdom to perceive and the nerve to bring forward measures so full of promise to the country—measures that will at once reanimate the confidence of the people, and, under Providence, will soon rescue the cause from impending dangers. What we have suffered from and are threatened with is not the exhaustion of the *material* of war. We have means and means in abundance to wage this contest indefinitely. Our boys reach the arms-bearing age in greater numbers than their seniors become unfit for service. The productive capacity of the country, with the labor remaining to us, may be made to double our actual needs. Energy, system and skill will keep up the agencies of transportation. Our arsenals, foundries, powder mills, iron and lead mines will furnish ample ordnance supplies, without the aid of blockade running. Our currency can be reclaimed, substituted, or dispensed with. Nations have made successful war without money, but, if money be indispensable, the cotton and tobacco, specie, silver plate and jewelry belonging to our people will furnish all we need, and of the right sort. These are incontrovertible facts; and they are facts that place our ability to continue the war to a successful end beyond a shadow of doubt, if affairs are well managed. The gloom which has of late overhung the country has not arisen from any ignorance or doubt as to these facts, but from a dissatisfaction with the way in which the strength of the country has been wielded and its affairs managed, and a distrust as to how they will continue to be wielded and managed—from an apprehension that further contributions and sacrifices will not be turned to the most useful account. It is, therefore, that we receive with unbounded gratification the action of the two Houses of Congress in creating for Gen. Lee (for such we need not say was the design of Congress) a position that will make him practical Chief of the War, and that will restore to the Army of Tennessee the General who commands their confidence and love."

GOLD.—The great fall in the market value of gold is not less a matter of surprise than of gratification. From 76 for 1, it fell in Richmond to 38 for 1, and it is even said that $100 000 had been offered there at 30 for 1, without finding purchasers. In Wilmington, about the time of the fall of Fort Fisher, gold is said to have sold at upwards of 100 for 1. We have since heard that it was down to 40 for 1. In both places it has fallen more than one half within a week.

This great fall is attributed to several causes. One of them, the cessation of the demand for gold to run the blockade through Wilmington, was mentioned in our last. Another is the impression that the financial measures now nearly perfected by Congress will have an important influence in reforming the currency by curtailing its amount and providing a substantial basis for its redemption. But perhaps more than all these is the strong belief that the great powers of Europe are about to recognise the Confederate States as a nation, and that in consequence of a knowledge of that intention the United States is now indirectly but earnestly making peace movements. Whatever be the cause, or combination of causes, the depreciation of gold is in itself a substantial good, and we hope it will be a permanent one.

COLD WEATHER.—We have had a week of intense cold. If it has caused suffering at home, what must it have been in the army?

We are glad to see the ice houses being filled.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, besides the proceedings given by our correspondent in the last Observer, the resolutions against the policy of employing slaves in the army were variously amended and passed. [The Raleigh papers do not publish them.] Mr. Ellis introduced a resolution recommending that a bounty of lands and negroes be given to soldiers. [The resolutions provide for giving one negro and fifty acres of land to each soldier.] Mr. McCorkle introduced a bill to more effectually prevent the sacrifice of property sold under execution.

In the Commons, on Wednesday, Mr. Ashworth introduced resolutions stating the committal of certain outrages on the people of Randolph county, acting under alleged orders from his Excellency Gov. Vance, and appointing a special committee of five to investigate said matter, with power to send for persons and papers. Mr. Polk of Anson, the following which was passed unanimously:—

Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be, and they are hereby requested to use their efforts to so amend existing laws, as to allow privates, non-commissioned officers and officers of the line, transportation on furlough or indulgence.

In the Senate, on Thursday Mr. Matthews introduced a bill to amend "an act to increase the efficiency of the Home Guard.

The bill to make robbery of dwelling houses in the day time a capital offence, was, after a long discussion, laid on the table, yeas 25, nays 14.

The Phillips resolutions in reference to impressments by the Confederate Government, with a proposed amendment to strike out the second and third resolutions, being under consideration, Mr. Odom strenuously opposed the adoption of the amendment, contending that the manner in which the impressment laws were executed was both "galling" and "ominous."

Mr. Courts said he should vote for the amendment, and in case it failed, should then vote against the whole measure. The object of these two resolutions—the second and the third—he could not but think was to cast slurs upon the authorities at Richmond.

Mr. Ward deemed the impressment laws necessary, and defended them on the ground of their great utility.

Mr. Dick addressed the Senate at length on the resolutions, opposing the proposed amendment to strike out the second and third, reviewing the general course of the administration, in proof of his position that they needed to be spoken to plainly, and making a characteristic speech generally, at the conclusion of which the Senate adjourned.

In the Commons, on Thursday, the committee on elections, in the contested election case for the county of Northampton, submitted resolutions to declare the seat vacant, to provide for a new election, and to allow the present contestants (Messrs. Rogers and Calvert) the legislative mileage and *per diem* during their attendance during the session.

Mr. Grissom introduced resolutions to provide for the appointment by each Sheriff of a Deputy, to declare such Deputy a State officer, and to call upon the Governor, in the case of such officer being conscripted, to demand his return to his official duties.

The bill to exempt the Mayor, Commissioners and certain municipal officers of Raleigh from Home Guard duty being under consideration, Mr. Benbury moved it be amended, so as to extend its provisions to all incorporate towns in the State. Agreed to. Mr. McAden moved a further amendment to include farmers selling produce at schedule rates to soldiers' families, and those who were the heads of families of four children. Agreed to and the bill was then tabled for the present.

In the Senate on Friday, the debate on the Phillips impressment resolutions was continued by Messrs. Bryson and Pitchford in favor of striking out the 2d and 3d, which were objectionable in the spirit manifested toward the Confederate Government, and Messrs. Lassiter and Warren on the other side. The resolutions were stricken out; 23 to 16, viz:

Yeas—Messrs. Aycock, Bryson, Crump, Courts, Ellis, Grier, Harris Horton Kirby McCorkle McEachern Miller Patterson, Patton, Pitchford, Smith Speight, Straughan Ward Whitford, Wiggins, Wright Wynne, —22.

Nays—Messrs. Arendell, Bagley, Berry, Blount Bogle, Dick Jones, Lassiter Leitch Long Matthews, Odom, Snead, Stubbs, Warren, Winstead—16.

The remaining resolutions, heretofore published in the Observer, were then passed, only Messrs. Aycock, Bryson and Ward voting against them.

In the Commons, on Friday, after some unimportant business, a bill concerning exemptions being before the House, was, on motion of Mr. McGehee, amended so as to allow the injunction against the impressment of private property, in cases of alleged unjust price, except when the impressing officer shall give security to abide by the price to be decreed, and the bill passed its final reading. Resolutions requesting the appraising State Commissioners to allow market value for articles impressed in case of an appeal, passed 3d reading; and the House adjourned.

Correspondence of the Fayetteville Observer.

RALEIGH, Jan'y 29, 1865.

Editors Observer:—The dispatch received here last night from Richmond, to the effect that three peace commissioners—Vice President Stephens, Senator Hunter and Judge Campbell—were to start thence to Washington that day, excited a profound sensation. Raleigh has, perhaps, in four years past, not exhibited so many smiling faces as yesterday on the reception of the news. For one the writer did not share in these raptures. *Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes*, or to speak plainly, he believes this whole peace agitation is a mere device to cloak for the nonce some scoundrelly yankee knave. So wonderful a change from wolfish snarl to dove-like cooing is a little too sudden to be real. In a few days it is understood the Legislative ambassadors will return from Richmond to this city, and then we will hear more fully of this matter. Pray God the upshot may be rather Liberty with a crust, than all the fleshpots of Egypt, the mills of Lowell, and shoeshops of Lynn with the yoke of bondmen.

For quite a number of days past Speaker Donnell has been so prostrated with rheumatism as to be confined to room and bed. During his absence the Chair has been most acceptably filled by Judge Shepherd, though he too is severely afflicted by an ocular affliction.

In the House on Saturday last, quite a number of recommendations were made from the different counties for appointments as Magistrates, but it is understood the Senate will refuse to concur.

The proceedings of Saturday are briefly as follows: In the Senate, Mr. Patterson introduced a bill (which under a suspension of the rules, passed) to continue the legalization of non-specie payment by the banks till 1867. Bills to impose a tax of $1000 on Charters of Incorporation or amendments thereto obtained from the General Assembly; to incorporate the Trustee of the Hill Orphan Fund; to amend the charter of the Locksville Iron Co; and to provide an armed police for the town of Fayetteville, also passed. Resolutions on the subject of arming slaves were also passed, by yeas 39, nays 3, as follows:—

Resolved, That the State of North Carolina protests against the arming of the slaves by the Confederate Government, in any emergency that can possibly arise—but gives its consent to their being taken and used as laborers in the public service, upon just compensation being made.

Resolved, That North Carolina denies the constitutional power of the Confederate Government to impress slaves for the purpose of arming them, or preparing them to be armed in any contingency without the consent of the States being first freely given—and then only according to State laws.

Resolved, That his Excellency Gov. Vance be requested to communicate a copy of these resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Mr. Pitchford, rising to a personal explanation, said he had not declared, as was understood, that we (the Confederacy) were whipped, but merely that just now we were whipped in a military point of view at Savannah and Fort Fisher, as we had been before at Donelson and Vicksburg. He was far from saying or believing we were subjugated. Senate then adjourned.

In the House, the session was chiefly occupied in the discussion of nominations for Magistracies. Mr. Phillips's resolutions in reference to impressment, as amended by the Senate, were, on motion of Mr. P., laid on the table. A message was sent the Senate proposing a joint select committee to enquire into the general financial and business management of the Insane Asylum, and as to the propriety of further supporting said institution.

T. P.

COMMISSIONERS TO RICHMOND.—It is understood that the Legislature in secret session appointed Senators Hall and Pool, and Commoners Person and Carter, to proceed to Richmond, to ascertain, probably from the President and our Congressmen, the condition of things. They left Raleigh on Wednesday last.

A MUNIFICENT PRESENT.—A few days ago a wagon stopped at our door to deliver a barrel of Sorghum, a sack of Flour, a bushel of Irish Potatoes, and a bucket of fresh Butter, all of superior quality, a present from a distant subscriber, (who would not excuse us if we should name him.) The servant who brought them was ordered to sell the remainder of the load at $16 per gallon for sorghum, and half the market price for flour, these being the rates at which he sells his produce at home—an example of liberality and unselfishness very rare in these days.

His faithful and trusty servant, who had been for some three years in the army, with his patriotic and gallant young masters (one of whom he buried among the mountains of Virginia, after he was killed in battle, and the other, sharing the same sad fate, was brought home by him to be interred in the family cemetery,) had a good deal to say of his observation of the yankees and their treatment of the negroes whom they cajoled or forced into joining them. He said the men were gladly taken, because they were wanted to fight, and were invariably put in the front; but the women and children were left to suffer or perish of hunger and cold. Having seen for himself the heartless and cruel treatment of the blacks, he is very emphatic in his advice to negroes to have nothing to do with them.

THE MAILS.—The mail this morning brought us no Richmond papers of later date than Wednesday. Thursday's, Friday's and Saturday's are due. The Southern mail was an entire failure, no papers having reached us from Wilmington even of later date than last Thursday.

YANKEE FEELING TOWARDS ENGLAND.—The bitter hate of the yankees towards England is well illustrated by an incident that occurred at Savannah a few days ago, as related by the Charleston correspondent of the Richmond Dispatch. He says that "Mr. Anthony Barclay, formerly British consul at New York, and now a resident in Savannah, was rudely repulsed by Gen. Sherman with the remark, that as soon as the rebels were disposed of (which he seemed to think would be done in a few months) the United States would turn their guns against Great Britain. He said the ocean would soon swarm with five hundred Federal cruisers, which would sweep the British flag from the sea; and that after England had been sufficiently reduced and exhausted, he would land upon her shores and pitch his tent in Hyde Park."

COTTON TO BE DESTROYED.—Gen. D. H. Hill, on taking command at Augusta, Geo., addressed a note to the Mayor of that city, informing him that he had been directed by Lt. Gen. Hardee to have the cotton in the city burnt on the approach of the yankees. He hopes that the citizens will remove the cotton either to a place of safety or to the commons, where it can be burnt without damage to the city, for that he will execute the order, even at the peril of the city.

In consequence of this notice, the Augusta papers state that the cotton and the powder works machinery were being rapidly removed to a place of safety; and it was supposed that the yankees would therefore not care to capture a city which would yield them no substantial advantage.

Richmond Rumors and Facts.—The city was full of rumors yesterday morning, to the effect that an armistice of ninety days had been agreed upon between the Confederate and United States; and some went so far as to state that white flags were flying from the hostile lines below Richmond. These stories were the offspring of idle fancies. So far from there being an armistice between the belligerents, there was more of active war yesterday on the lines below here than there has been since last November. Our rams and small wooden boats started down the river, at an early hour, with the design, it is supposed, of damaging the Yankee pontoon bridges near Deep Bottom, their shipping, and, if fortune favored, their store-houses at Bermuda Hundred and City Point. All went smoothly with the expedition until the obstructions were reached which the enemy sunk in Trent's reach last summer. In attempting to pass them, the Drewry—a very small boat, carrying two guns—got aground and was opened upon by the enemy's batteries; a 100-pound shot penetrated her magazine and blew her up. Of the rest of the fleet, the Fredericksburg alone passed the obstructions, and she soon put back, it being thought unwise for her to proceed alone. Constant cannonading was heard in the direction of Dutch gap during the morning. It is said we suffered no casualties by the blowing up of the Drewry, she, we presume, being abandoned before she was struck.

Rich. Dispatch, 25th.

The Gold Market.—A panic continues in the gold market, which is partially attributed to the scarcity of Confederate notes. Confederate money is in great demand, which is daily becoming more stringent; the ultimate effect of which must be to establish some well defined relation between paper and specie, and overrule the combination of brokers to put up gold to speculative figures. Gold sold Monday at 35, and yesterday the market price was so uncertain as to be nominal.

It is known that the Government has accumulated at Richmond, within the past few days, a large quantity of gold; and it is surmised, to the great terror of the engrossers of specie, that the Government may throw some of it on the market, (if it has not already done so,) and put the price at its own figures.

We may safely conclude that whatever may be the price Government may put upon gold, the current market price would soon fall far below the standard on account of the scarcity of Treasury notes, which is even now severely felt, and which would be made more stringent in exact proportion as these were absorbed, or rather put out of existence, by the Government buying up its currency and cancelling it for gold. The practical effect would be that many persons who had bought gold at the Government standard would be compelled to sell again on a falling market; and thus a double profit would ensue to the Government, while everybody would be benefitted but a few speculators.—*Richmond Examiner, 25th.*

General-in-Chief.—The President has signed the bill creating a General-in-Chief, and it is now a law. No appointment has yet been made.—*Exam'r, 25th.*

Yankee Items—The Situation at Mobile—More Fighting expected.—A correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune, writing from Mobile, predicts active operations in that vicinity shortly.

West Virginia.—The first decision of Chief Justice Chase, in the Supreme Court of the U. States, was that West Virginia is legally a State. The decision was given on the question placing the name of that State on the list when calling the docket.

Confiscation in Virginia.—The notorious John C. Underwood advertises in the N. Y. Tribune two columns of sales of confiscated real estates in Virginia, in all, 109 estates.

A Remarkable Sleet.—On Friday night last and during the whole of Saturday, in this portion of the country, a most plentiful rain fell which sleeted heavily, more than we have ever known before. The destruction to timber must be immense. The roads in some places were completely blockaded and rendered impassable. We fear that much damage has been sustained by orchards and fruit trees. In town, fruit and shade trees are much injured, there being scarcely a single one of the latter on which the effects of the sleet are not visible. The streets of our town presenting in some places the appearance of having been visited by a terrible tornado, which prostrated and injured every tree in its path.

Western Sentinel.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

Messrs. Editors: Permit me to acknowledge the liberal donation of 8 pairs of socks and 1 pair of gloves from the Young Ladies' Knitting Society, and 30 pairs of socks and 1 comfort from the Juvenile Knitting Society. The members of both Societies will please accept the thanks of Gen. E and 1, 51st Reg't N. C. T.

Very respectfully,

JAS. H. TAYLOR, Asst Gen'l N. C. T.

BY TELEGRAPH.

REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Peace Movement!—Appointment of Commissioners to Washington!—RICHMOND, Jan. 28.—Hon. R. M. T. Hunter, Senator from Virginia, Vice President Stephens, and Hon. John A. Campbell of Alabama have been appointed Commissioners to proceed to Washington to confer with the United States authorities on the subject of Peace. They will leave Richmond to-morrow.

Gen. Breckinridge appointed Secretary of War—A new Commissary General.—RICHMOND, Jan'y 28.—Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge has been appointed Secretary of War, *vice* Hon James A. Seddon, resigned.

It is reported that Wm Johnston, Esq., of Charlotte, N. C., Gov. Vance's competitor in 1862, will be appointed Commissary General, *vice* Northrop, resigned.

Sherman's Movements.—MACON, Jan. 28.—Private advices from Savannah state that Gen. Sherman commenced his movement on South Carolina on the 17th inst. with three columns—the main column moving towards Charleston, taking nearly all his transportation, and two other columns, in light marching order, moving by separate roads towards Branchville, S. C.

Gen. D. H. Hill has issued orders to non-combatants to leave Augusta [a piece of information which reached us over Gen. Hill's signature in the Augusta papers last Thursday evening.]

From Charleston.—Yankee Naval Losses.—CHARLESTON, Jan. 27.—The Yankee gunboat Dictating got aground in Combahee river yesterday and our batteries opened upon her and set her on fire. She burned to the water's edge. Except a Lieutenant and 5 men all the crew escaped. The prisoners, brought to this city to-day, report that the vessel sunk off Sullivan's Island recently by a torpedo was the Patapsco. Only 5 out of her crew numbering 300 escaped. The others, 295, were drowned.

Nothing of importance is reported from below.

Fire at Wilmington—Military Matters Quiet.—WILMINGTON, Jan. 28.—At 1 P. M. to-day a lot of 435 bales of cotton lying on the wharf in front of the Custom House was nearly all destroyed by fire. The adjacent buildings were not damaged.

Two car-loads of cotton on the W. and W. Railroad, 4 miles from town, were also burned this morning.

All is quiet below. A stiff N. W. breeze is blowing and it is very cold.

Fire at Marietta.—MACON, Jan. 28.—The Marietta Hotel, Marietta, Ga., was burned on the night of the 20th inst. Fire thought accidental.

Congress.—RICHMOND, Jan'y 25.—The Senate to-day passed, 15 to 3, the bill increasing the number of Midshipmen in the Navy, which the President had vetoed. The Currency Bill from the House [published in a late Observer] was passed without important change. In the House, Mr. J. T. Leach introduced resolutions condemning the employment of negro soldiers in the Confederate army.

RICHMOND, Jan'y 26.—Nothing of importance was done in the Senate to-day. A message from the President vetoing the bill to send soldiers' newspapers free of postage was made the order for Saturday. In the House the bill to increase number of Midshipmen, which yesterday passed the Senate over the President's veto, failed for want of two-thirds vote. The yeas were 38, nays 36.

RICHMOND, Jan. 27.—The Senate to-day passed the House bill to increase the efficiency of the cavalry. Mr. Wigfall introduced a resolution of inquiry as to the propriety of repealing all laws authorizing impressment of property for use of army, except by military officers in case of absolute necessity, which after a long debate, was adopted. In the House the Senate bill providing for employment of free negroes and slaves on fortifications, &c., came up and Mr. Ramsey moved a proviso that said slaves shall not be used as soldiers. Mr. Miles supported the amendment. He was utterly opposed to arming our slaves. In the midst of his remarks, the House sustained a motion to transfer to the secret calendar.

RICHMOND, Jan. 28.—The Senate to-day passed the bill authorizing free transmission of newspapers to soldiers, notwithstanding the President's objections, by Yeas 13, Nays 4. Nothing of importance was done in the House.

THREE YANKEES CAPTURED BY TWO LADIES.—A subscriber writes us from Wilkes county:—

"REDDIT'S RIVER, Jan'y 14, 1865.

Dear Sirs:—I wish to inform you of the brave conduct of two young Ladies of this place, Misses A. D. Vickers and C. E. Vannoy. On the 26th of December last they saw three yankees pass up the public road in a suspicious manner, mounted their horses, pursued them, ordered them to surrender, succeeded in arresting them and carried and delivered them to the military authorities.

DIED,

Suddenly, on the morning of the 18th Jan'y 1865, in Richmond county, JOSEPH HINES, in the 67th year of his age, leaving a wife and children to mourn his loss. The large congregation assembled to attend his funeral bear testimony that he was much respected and beloved. Com.

Killed, by deserters, near his own house in Robeson county, on the 15th inst., Mr. J. B HARRIS, aged 40 years.

FAYETTEVILLE MARKET.—Jan. 30.

REVIEW OF THE MARKET

Bacon 7 00. Pork 6 00. Lard 8 00.
Beef 1 50 to 2 00 per pound, retail.
Beeswax 6 00. Butter 10 00 to 12 00
Chickens, retail 80 to $40. Dried Fruit $2.
Eggs 4 00 per dozen.
Flour, $560 to 600
Fodder $12 00. Hay $40. Smoked $10.
Tobacco 5 00 per lb.
Sterling Exchange 4-8 Shastlings, 5 25 by bale.
Grain—Corn $40 00. Wheat $30 00. Rye $35 00 to 15 00. Peas $40 00.
Green Apples 80 00 to 50 00 per bushel.
Dried Fruit—Green 3 50, dry 6 00 to 7 00
Liquors—Sweden $5 to $7, country made 4 00 to 5 00 per gallon. Corn Whiskey $35 00. Apple and Peach Brandy $35 00. Grape Brandy $80 to $100.
Molasses, country made, 30 00 by bbl
Nails 4 50 to 5 00 per lb.
Onions $35 per bushel. Powder $40 to $50 per lb.
Potatoes—Irish $25 bush; sweet $15.
Rice 2 00.
Brown Sugar 15 00 to 18 00.
Soda retail 12 50 per lb. Shot $10 to $12.
Soap—Family 3 00 per lb., Toilet 8 00 to 10 00.
Salt 75 00 to $100 per bushel.
Spirits Turpentine 5 00 per gallon.
Tallow 6 00. Wool $40.

Corrected by E. L. PENNIMAN.

Fayetteville Fire Department,

JANUARY 25, 1865.

PUBLIC attention is called to the following section of the law establishing a Fire Department in the Town of Fayetteville, and notice is hereby given that the requirements will be insisted upon, and failing to comply will be reported in every instance:

"That every owner of a wooden house, or brick or stone house covered with wood, or tenant or occupier of the same, which are used as dwelling houses or kitchens, shall within sixty days hereafter provide the same with a sufficient ladder, or have a scuttle door through the roof of said house large enough for a man to pass through conveniently, under the penalty of one hundred dollars for omitting or neglecting the same.

1t A. H. DELANY, Chief Fire Warden.

Servants for Hire.

1 WOMAN, age 26, cook, washer and ironer.
2 boys, age 16 years.
1 girl, age 14 years.

Apply to Mrs. WM. S. DRUMMOND,
Lumberton, N. C.
Jan'y 26. 5 2tpd

NOTICE.

STRAYED from the subscriber, about the middle of December last, two OXEN, one black brindle, the other red neck and breast, the balance white. The said Steers I got from Jesse Bethea, in Marlboro' District, S. C. Any person who will take them up will be liberally rewarded, and any information of them will be thankfully received. The marks on them not recollected. My address is Gilopolis, Robeson county.

MARK LOCKLEAR.
Jan'y 23, 5*pd

Horses, Buggy and Gold Watch,

AT AUCTION.

ON Thursday next the 2d Feb'y, will be sold at Auction,
1 Fine Buggy, Harness and Horse.
1 Horse suitable for cavalry.
1 Horse, young and gentle.
1 Good Mule, medium size.
1 Hunting case Gold Watch.
1 Office on Row street. Gilliam's.
1 Dwelling House, Orange and Cumberland streets.

JOHN H. COOK, Auct'r.
Jan'y 28. 1tpd

AT AUCTION.

ON Tuesday next, the 31st inst. at the Market House,
30 or 40 HEAD OF CATTLE;
10 or 12 HEAD OF MULES AND HORSES;
A number of WAGONS, &c.

—ALSO—

Some splendid Oxen, Carts, &c.

Any of the property may be seen at the house of J. A. Worth.

WALTER DRAUGHON, Auct'r.
Jan'y 28. 1t

AUCTION SALE,

By H. McMILLAN, Auctioneer.

WILL be sold this day at 3 o'clock P. M., the following articles:
1 Set Landscape and Gold Band China, 52 pieces, Dishes, Tumblers, &c.
2 Sets Ivory Handle Knives and Forks.
1 Large Brass Kettle.
1 Fine Mahogany Bedstead.
1 Maple do.
1 Feather Bed
1 Mahogany Bureau.
1 Wash Stand.
And sundry other very desirable articles.

Fayetteville, Jan'y 30. 1t

SHAWL FOUND.

FOUND in the street, a few evenings ago, a gentleman's Shawl. The owner can hear where it may be had on application at this office and paying for this advertisement.

Jan'y 27. 1t

Notice to Enrolling Officers.

Office Med. Exam'g Board 4th Cong. Dist. N. C.
FAYETTEVILLE, Jan'y 29, 1865.

PAR. I. In obedience to Circular from Conscript Office, Raleigh, N. C., dated Jan'y 19th, 1865, the Medical Examining Board or some member of it, will attend at the following times and places, to examine the slaves impressed under Par. VIII, General Orders No. 26, A. & I. G. O.

Fayetteville, Cumb'd county, Feb'y 6th and 7th, 1865.
Summerville, Harnett county, Feb'y 9th.
Elizabethtown, Bladen county, Feb'y 13th.
Wilmington, New Hanover county, Feb'y 15th & 16th.
Whiteville, Columbus county, Feb'y 18th.
Rockingham, Richmond county, Feb'y 22d and 23d.
Lumberton, Robeson, county, Feb'y 24th and 25th.

II. Enrolling Officers will see that *every slave* embraced in the call is present for examination, as it is important alike to the owner and to the Government, that their physical *status* should be accurately set forth.

III. It is desirable also, that the owner or hirer and the Impressing Officer should attend, that the certificate required in every case may be made out in their presence.

W. L. LEDBETTER, M. D.,
5-3w] Member Ex. Board 4th Cong. Dist., N. C.
Wilmington Journal copy daily one week.

North Carolina,--Montgomery County.

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Jan'y Term 1865.

THE following list of Lands were returned for an order of sale for the taxes due thereon, by A. H. Sanders, former Sheriff of Montgomery county:

Reddick Benton, 500 acres, val $1600, tax $6 40.
Daniel Chisholm, 50 acres, val $50, tax 25 cts.
Wm Dunn, 100 acres, val $50, tax 40 cts.
Alex McLeod, 256 acres, val $250, tax $1.
David Thompson, 119 acres, val $200, tax 3 96.
Peter Thomas, 95 acres, val $50, tax 36 cts.
J D Thomas, 500 acres, val $500, tax 6 09.
J L Currie, 2637 acres, val $1685, tax 47 41.
J Mallock's, Est, 95 acres, val $150, tax 5 95.
Chisholm & McDuffie, 247 acres, val $500, tax 18 50.
Malcom McRae, 100 acres, val $100, tax $3 70.
Wm Morton, 350 acres, val $1000, tax 35 20.
Jas Batten, Jr, 140 acres, val $140, tax 5 44.
Angus Lamons, 100 acres val $150, tax 45 cts.
Alex McCaskill, 275 acres, val $275, tax 9 07.
John Gibson's heirs, 100 acres, val $100, tax $1 40.
John Pittman, 150 acres, val $75, tax 54 cts.
Riley Hicks' Est, 30 acres, val $150, tax $1.
Wm Adkins, 157 acres, val $500, tax 4 00.
Daniel Boon, 80 acres, val $100, tax 3 08.
Ann Bean, 100 acres, val $100, tax 2 12.
A L Deaton, 359 acres, val $400, tax 3 75.
John Lucas Est, 100 acres, val $100 tax 50 cts
Levi Wright, 200 acres, val $225, tax 1 13.
A G McLeod's Est, 112 acres, val $275, tax 2 48.
Noah Richardson, 344 acres, val $500, tax 11 50.
Nathan Smith's Est, 73 acres, val $100, tax 2 30.
Darcy Latham, 165 acres, val $210, tax 10 44.
Larkin Brewer, 46 acres, val $75, tax 1 05.
Kiddy Moore, 50 acres, val $125, tax 1 75.
David McLeod, 170 acres, val $225, tax 8 15.
Alex Spencer, 330 acres, val $330, tax 4 63.
Elizabeth Wright, 332 acres, val $350, tax 9 70.
Noah Miller, 200 acres, val $200, tax 10 00.
J P & H Lucas, 374 acres, val $800 tax 11 20.
Elisha Moore, 400 acres, val $550, tax 28 00.
Joshua Wright, 325 acres val $350, tax 17 00.
Richard Crawford's

THE FALL OF FORT FISHER.

The Richmond papers yesterday brought us copious extracts from yankee accounts of the late operations on our coast. We annex all of interest:—

ADMIRAL PORTER'S PRELIMINARY REPORTS.

FLAG SHIP MALVERN, }
Off Fort Fisher, N. C., Jan. 14, 1865. }

Sir:—I have the honor to inform you that operations have been resumed against the forts at the entrance of Cape Fear river. Since the first attack on that place, and the subsequent withdrawal of the troops, I have been employed in filling the ships with ammunition and coal. The difficulties we had to encounter no one can conceive. As soon as it was over I got under way on the 12th inst., and after forming the vessels in three lines, with the transports in company, I steamed for Fort Fisher.

On the morning of the 13th the fleet took its station in three lines, close to the beach, and the boats were sent at once to take off the troops. These were landed, with about 12 days' provisions, at about 2 o'clock P. M. This time I pursued a different plan in attacking the rebel works. I sent in the New Ironsides, Commodore Radford, leading the Monitors Saugus, Canonicus, Monadnock and Mahopac. At 7.30 A. M. the forts opened on them as they approached, but they quietly took up their old positions, within 1,000 yards of Fisher, and when ready they opened their batteries. In this way I tempted the enemy to engage the Monitors, that we might see what guns they had, and seeing where they were, be able to dismount them by our fire. Quite a spirited engagement went on between the forts and the Ironsides and Monitors.

It was soon apparent that the iron vessels had the best of it. Traverses began to disappear, and the southern angle of Fort Fisher commenced to look very dilapidated. The guns were silenced one after the other, and only one heavy piece in the southern angle kept up its fire. The fire of this gun was not at all accurate, as it inflicted no damage on the iron vessels. They were hit, though, several times. By way of letting the enemy know that we had some shell left on board the wooden ships, and I did not intend to take any unfair advantage of him by using the iron vessels alone, I ordered line No 1 on the plan, led by Capt. Aldon, of the Brooklyn; and line No. 2, led by Com. Thatcher, of the Colorado, to go and attack the batteries. This was done in the handsomest manner. Not a mistake was committed except firing too rapidly, and making too much smoke. The heavy fire of the large vessels shut up the enemy's guns at once, and after firing till after dark the wooden vessels dropped out to their anchorage.

The Ironsides and Monitors maintained their positions through the night, firing a shell now and then. They were lying within 1000 yards of the fort and one of the Monitors within 700 yards, and the fort does not fire a gun at them, thinking, no doubt, that it is a waste of powder. The firing from the fleet will commence as soon as we get breakfast, and be kept up as long as the Ordnance Department provides us with shells and guns. There is a perfect understanding between Gen. Terry and myself. I see no reason to doubt our success. The forts will be used up soon. We have a respectable force landed on a strip of land which our naval guns completely command, a place of defence which would enable us to hold on against a very large army. I will report to you by every opportunity.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear Admiral.

U. S. FLAGSHIP MALVERN, Jan. 15, 1865.

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that we have possession of Fort Fisher, and the fall of the surrounding works will soon follow.

As I informed you in my last, we had commenced operations with the iron vessels, which bombarded while we landed the troops. On the 14th I ordered all the vessels carrying 11 inch guns to bombard with the Ironsides, the Brooklyn taking the lead. By sunset the fort was reduced to a pulp. Every gun was silenced by being injured or covered with earth so that they would not work.

On the 15th Gen. Terry and myself arranged for the assault, and I ordered 1,400 sailors and marines to participate. At daylight the Iron vessels, the Brooklyn and 11 iron gunboats, commenced batteriag the work, while the troops made a lodgement within 150 yards of the fort. At 10 o'clock all the vessels steamed in and took their stations, opening a heavy fire, which was kept up until 3 P. M., when the signal was made to assault, the soldiers taking the land side and the sailors the sea face, the ships changing but not stopping their fire to the other works. The Rebels met us with a courage worthy of a better cause, and fought desperately. About 30 of the sailors and officers succeeded in getting to the top of the parapet amidst a murderous fire of grape and canister and muskery. They had planted the flag there, but were swept away in a moment. Others tried to get up the steep *pan coupes*. The marines could have cleared the parapet by keeping up a steady fire, but they failed to do so, and the sailors were repulsed. Many a gallant fellow fell trying to emulate their brothers-in-arms who were fighting to obtain an entrance on the north-east angle, as it appears on our chart.

The enemy mistook the seamen's attack for the main body of troops, and offered a most vigorous resistance there, but I witnessed it all and think the marines could have made the assault successful.

In the meantime our gallant soldiers had gained a foothold on the north west corner of the fort, fighting like lions and contesting every inch of ground. The Ironsides and monitors kept throwing their shells into the traverses not occupied by our men, but occupied by the rebels. In this way our troops fought from traverse to traverse from 3 o'clock in the afternoon until 10 o'clock at night, when the joyful tidings were signalled to the fleet. We stopped our fire and gave them three of the heartiest cheers I ever heard.

It has been the most terrific struggle I ever saw, with very much hard labor.

The troops have covered themselves with glory, and Gen. Terry is my *beau ideal* of a soldier and a General. Our operations have been most harmonious, and I think the General will do the navy the credit to say that this time at least we substantially injured the fort as a defensive work.

Gen. Terry had only a few more troops than we had on the last occasion, when the enemy had only 150 men in the works. This time the works were fully manned, and contained about 800 men at the time of the assault.

It is a matter of great regret to me to see my gallant officers and men so cut up, but I was unwilling to let the troops undertake the capture of the works without the navy's sharing with them the peril all were anxious to undergo, and we should have had the honor of meeting our brothers-in-arms in the works had the sailors been properly supported. We have lost about 200 men in killed and wounded, and amongst these some gallant officers.

The assault only took place a few hours ago, and I am unable to inform you of our casualties. These are quite severe from the assault, but we had no casualties from the enemy's cannon. No one can conceive what the army and navy have gone through to achieve this victory, which should have been ours on Christmas day, without the loss of a dozen men. This has been a day of terrific struggle and not surpassed by any of the events of the war.

There is not a spot of earth about the fort that has not been torn up by our shells. I do not know yet the number of killed and wounded by our fire; but one 15 inch shell alone pierced a bomb proof killing sixteen and wounding severely 25 others.

Besides the men in Fort Fisher there were about 500 in the upper forts and a relief of about 1,500 men brought down by steamers this morning. So far, I believe, we have only captured the garrison of Fort Fisher. I don't suppose there ever was a work subjected to such a terrific bombardment or where the appearance of a fort was more altered.

I presume we are in possession of all the forts, as Fort Fisher commands them all. It is so late now that I can learn nothing more until morning.

I am sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear Admiral.

To Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy.

NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS.

A correspondent of the Baltimore American, giving a long account of the affair, introduces it as follows:—

"After three days of the most fearful and stubborn fighting in the naval or military experience of this war, I have the gratification of announcing that Fort Fisher has been compelled to succumb, with all the outlying batteries, and that the flag of the Union now floats from this Rebel stronghold. Our victory is complete. The bombardment commenced by the navy on Friday morning last, and was continued night and day until 9 o'clock on Sunday night, a period of sixty hours, with little or no cessation.

"The storming of the fort by the military and the naval brigade was a most bloody affair, and it may be doubted whether there has been anything equal to it for persistent assault and stubborn resistance. The land assault was made on the fort at 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoon, and a lodgment effected on its west angle by the military. The assault on the north side by the naval brigade was repulsed with fearful slaughter, but it served as an important diversion, enabling the military to obtain their foothold.

"The fight for the possession of the fort lasted six hours, being a hand-to-hand struggle, each of the seventeen mounds and embrasures having been captured in succession, after fierce encounters, in which heaps of dead and wounded were added to those that already lined the works from the effects of the naval bombardment.

"Suffice it to say, by way of preface to my more detailed account, that notwithstanding the fort had been strengthened and reinforced to treble the garrison it had when Gen. Butler decided that it could not be taken, it is now in our possession, with 74 cannon, 2000 living prisoners, and 700 dead, and that our gunboats have to-day sailed up the Cape Fear river, driving before them the pirates Chickamagga and Tallahassee, effectually closing it to rebel blockade running, and stopping the only channel the rebels had left for importation of munitions of war and the export of cotton to pay for them.

"Our immense fleet kept on this coast is now no longer required, and can be sent elsewhere to aid in subduing the rebellion. Gen Terry brought with him the same troops who had been humbled and mortified by Gen Butler, and the hearty cheers which they last night gave for their commanding officer and Admiral Porter, and groans for Gen. Butler, evinced the feeling with which they entered upon the task assigned them by Gen. Grant.

"The very elements seemed to favor us in the great and glorious undertaking. For seven days the wind has blown from the west, giving us a calm and quiet sea. We have also had an uninterrupted clear sky and mild temperature, with bright moonlight nights."

This is followed in the American and in other papers by column after column devoted to the feats of the soldiers and sailors during the bombardment, which are not reprinted in the Richmond papers. They pass them by and republish the accounts of the *real* assaults referred to above and in Admiral Porter's reports, as follows:—

THE NAVAL ASSAULT.

From Lt. Farquhar, of the Santiago, who accompanied the landing party from the navy, I have some interesting particulars of the repulse of those gallant men.

The sailors were in three divisions, under the command of Lt. Com. Cushman, Lt. Selfridge and Lt. Parker, while the marines were commanded by Capt. Dawson of the marine corps.

The sailors and marines, on reaching a point three quarters of a mile from the fort, were opened upon with grape and canister from two of the embrasures, whilst the main portion of the garrison appeared on the parapets with muskets and rifles, and mowed down our men. The first division coming up last could not get into the ditch, and consequently had no cover or protection. They were thus compelled to order a retreat, and a large portion of the other divisions obeyed the order, leaving only about 200 under cover. They were still under this tremendous fire as they retreated, and their bodies were left strewn along the beach, together with many of the wounded, the rebel sharpshooters afterwards amusing themselves by firing at these unfortunate creatures. They also killed a number of the wounded in this way, who fell near the ditch.

Those who remained under cover behind the palisades, about 200 in number, burrowed into the sand, and thus protected themselves from the volleys that were constantly poured into them. Among these were Flag Capt. Breese, Lt. Farquhar, of the Santiago, and others, who made their escape after dark. Ensign Dayton, of the Nereus, who had been for 11 months a prisoner along with Lt. Preston and Lt. Porter, at Charleston, observing his two comrades fall, seized a rifle and devoted himself to revenge for the outrages inflicted on him and them. When Col. Lamb, the rebel commander of the fort, was observed standing on one of the ramparts, with his sword drawn and cheering on his men to resist the assault of the military, he leveled at him and saw him fall, apparently dead, but he was found to be mortally wounded, and is now in our hands. Several others also fell under his unerring shots.

Thus the naval storming party failed; not, however, through any want of bravery on the part of the gallant fellows, but owing to the fact that they had to march over a level, unobstructed beach without the slightest shelter, and had thus concentrated upon them the whole power of the garrison. The moment the signal was given by Admiral Porter to the fleet to change their fire from Fort Fisher to the water batteries, the whole garrison rushed to the northern ramparts to resist the assaulting party. They knew there were soldiers under cover in the woods but they thought they were to follow on in support of the naval brigade. They had no idea that, whilst resisting the assault on the north side, the army was approaching on the west side.

The losses of the naval brigade were not less than 250 in killed and wounded. The number of officers wounded is unprecedented.

THE MILITARY ASSAULT.

We could see from the fleet but little of what was going on west of the fort, further than the occasional glimpse of the prolonged contest, which had not closed when darkness set in, and could then only be inferred from the flashes of the musketry observable on the ramparts and in the interior of the work.

Acting Master's Mate Kempton was sent on shore in charge of a boat placed at the service of Gen Terry, and being invited by one of the staff to join them in the assault, entered the fort with Gen. Curtis, acting as his aid. He represents that the assaulting party advanced while the garrison were repelling the naval assault, and had succeeded—by suddenly capturing the guard of 30 men at the sally-port, manning two howitzers loaded with grape, and shooting down and driving back the sharpshooters on the ramparts—in gaining an entrance and a footing on three of the mounds before the general attention of the garrison was directed to them. The gallant fellows engaged in this bold and hazardous work were the 142d New York. Their approaches were conducted scientifically, and they being each armed with "nine shooters," swept down their opponents as they advanced, who, having to stop to load, were virtually disarmed.

Their supports rushed on as soon as the flag was raised, and then commenced one of the severest contests that the war has furnished for the possession of a fort. It appeared to have been constructed especially for such a contest as was now progressing, and inch of the 17 mounds were successively fought for and struggled over with desperate perseverance and bravery, both by the assaulting party and the garrison. Mound after mound was captured, until 9 of the 17 were in our possession, at 9 o'clock at night, when Gen. Curtis, who led the assaulting party, determined to make one more charge on the enemy, and if that failed, to hold on to the half that was in his possession until the morning. Just as he was about to make the charge a white flag was raised by the garrison, and possession given of the entire work. The prisoners were at once placed in the bomb proofs and kept under guard until this morning, when they were marched out and numbered, with those who escaped and were subsequently recaptured, over 1,800 privates and 100 officers, including Maj. Gen. Whiting, the commander of all the works on the coast, and Brig Gen. Lamb, the commander of Fort Fisher, both of whom are wounded.

The loss of the army in this assault and the subsequent contest for the possession of the work is 750 in killed and wounded. The gallant Gen. Curtis, who accompanied Gen. Butler, but who disagreed with him in the opinion that the fort could not be taken, led the assault, and has a painful wound over the eye.

The number of guns captured in the fort and the adjacent works, including the batteries on Zeke's island and the Mound, is 72. They were all in good condition, none of them being spiked, though 14 of the 17 on the north front were dismounted. The variety of guns is remarkable, embracing all the most famed varieties of English manufacture, including a 100 pounder Armstrong gun, mounted on a solid mahogany carriage.

When it is remembered that the assault was commenced at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and that the full possession of the fort was not obtained until after 9 o'clock in the evening, a period of six hours, some idea of the fierceness of the hand-to-hand encounter may be imagined. They fought as men never before fought.

The rebels having been driven from one mound to another, finally surrendered, at half past 9 o'clock, which was the time of the first cheer we heard from the gallant victors.

EXPLOSION OF THE FORT'S MAGAZINE.

Whilst we were looking at Fort Fisher under the Federal flag and rejoicing over its downfall, a tremendous explosion took place in its very centre, sounding louder than the boom of a 15-inch gun. A volume of smoke and sand rose 50 feet in the air, enveloping and hiding from view the whole of this immense work for four or five minutes. It was apparent that the magazine had exploded, and that it must have been accompanied with great loss of life. We soon after learned that the destruction of life was not less than 200. It was occasioned by the carelessness of some of the colored troops, in carrying candles into the magazine. A large quantity of corn meal had been found stored in a magazine, which the colored soldiers had freely used for their breakfasts, not knowing that it also contained a ton or more of powder underneath the meal. The exact manner in which the fire was communicated cannot, of course, be known, but it is presumed that there was some loose powder on the floor, into which a spark fell. It was a terrible event, so soon following our great victory. It was undoubtedly the result of carelessness, or rather the lack of knowledge of the presence of powder.

The loss of life by the explosion I learn is about two hundred, besides quite a number wounded. The magazine that exploded was in the very centre of the parade, and it has scooped out the earth to a great depth for fifty feet around, and added to the desolation that reigns in this vast monument of engineering ability.

GUNBOATS IN CAPE FEAR.

This (Monday) morning 5 double-ender gunboats were sent into the Cape Fear. Their first object will be to establish a base on the river for the landing of supplies for the army and garrison. A small pier is already there, and an extensive wharf will immediately be built.

WANTED,

HIDES to tan on shares. Terms, ⅓ Leather or its equivalent in cash. We can tan it in a very short time if desired by Hicks's patent. Persons wishing their Hides tanned can send them to our address to Egypt Depot, where they will be taken from and leather delivered at our expense. Our address is Beaumont, Chatham County.

W. D. WATSON & CO.

Reference Messrs. G W Williams & Co., Fayetteville.
Jan'y 25 4-2mpd

Confederate Tax Notice.

I WILL attend with the Assessors at the following times and places for the purpose of receiving all taxes due 1st Jan'y 1865. Also to list Specific Tax (for Licenses;) Tax on Sales for the quarter ending 31st Dec'r 1864; Tax on Incomes, Profits and Salaries; Additional Tax on Profits made by buying and selling at any time between Jan'y 1st, 1863, and Jan'y 1st, 1865; Additional Tax on Profits exceeding 25 per cent. during 1864, by any corporation or joint stock company: viz: At Arch'd Kelly's Feb'y 9th, 1865; Sandhill's Feb'y 10th; Ritter's Feb'y 11th; Alston Place Feb'y 13th; McIntosh's Feb'y 14th; Sheppard's Feb'y 15th; McNeill's 16th; Graham's 17th, Carthage 18th; also at Carthage 20th, 21st, and 22d, (Court week.) All who have failed to settle for their Taxes are reminded that the money value must be paid at once or the law will be enforced.

ALEX. KELLY,
Collector 32d District N. C.
Carthage, Jan'y 20 8*2t

NOTICE.

By virtue of an order of the County Court of Harnett at December Term 1864, the subscriber will attend at the following times and places in said county, for the purpose of collecting a special Tax levied for the support of Soldiers' families for the year 1865.

At Mrs. Cameron's for Johnsonville and Barbecue Dist. Thursday Jan. 26.
" Turner's store Upper L. River, Friday Jan 27.
" Baker's Store, Stewart's creek, Saturday, 28.
" Clement's Store, Averasboro' Monday, 30.
" R. Turlington's, Grove, Tuesday, 31.
" R. Matthew's Mill, Neill's creek, Wednesday February 1.
" Mrs. Arnold's, Buckhorn and Hector's creek, Thursday, 2d.

All Tax Payers are urgently requested to meet me at the times and places specified and pay, as the money is needed for the above important purpose.

J. R. GRADY, Sh'ff.
Jan'y 3. 2-3t

DEFERRED LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

In the Senate, on Friday last, when the House Impressment Resolutions [Mr. Phillips' resolutions passed at late Session] came up, Mr. Wright, after stating he did not deem the second and third resolutions germane, moved they be stricken out.

Mr. Lassiter spoke of the offensive and insulting manner in which impressment had been very recently carried on in Granville county, and declared that, if some relief be not extended the people, a degree of insubordination would arise that might lead to bloodshed. In such a state of things it was time to speak out and let the government know that while willing to perform all their duty, the people must be protected from offensive and insulting abuses of the law.

Mr. Wright said no one was more opposed to or would go further to put down any improper action by a government towards its people, but he had objected to the second and third resolutions as not being germane to the object of the resolutions, which, as he took it, was to call the attention of Congress to the improper manner in which the impressment laws were executed, in hopes of procuring relief. By the third resolution the whole course of the government was arraigned, and if this and the preceding one were stricken out, he believed the interests of his constituents would be subserved by the passage of the others. On his return to Cumberland last session, he had found much excitement prevailing on this subject of impressment, no little of which arose from the fact that the people had not sufficiently understood the laws of Congress, but as new orders had lately been issued, fair prices were now received in place of the one-third formerly allowed.

Mr. Odom said he did not rise to defend the government, but he believed the impressment laws were very good—could'nt be better. He favored, too, the striking out of the second and third resolutions, and would propose certain additional resolutions he had prepared on the subject (reading some to provide that any illegality in making impressment should be punished by fine and imprisonment, and that just compensation should be taken to mean market price, local valuation, etc.)

On motion of Mr. Arendell, the farther consideration was postponed till Tuesday next the 24th, at 12 M.

In the Commons, on Friday, Mr. Hanes of Davidson introduced the following:

"Whereas, the present system of legislation by the Congress of the Confederate States, by which the most oppressive and unconstitutional laws have been passed from time to time, by the votes of irresponsible representatives from Missouri, Kentucky, and other States, some of whom have never seceded from the government of the United States, but have at this time their full quota of men in the armies of our enemies, and who therefore have no constituents upon whom the laws passed by them can operate, and some of whom dare not even show themselves in the States which they profess to represent, is an outrage to which no free people ought to submit, and

"Whereas, article V of the Constitution of the Confederate States provides that "upon the demands of any three States, legally assembled in their several Conventions, the Congress shall summon a Convention of all the Confederate States, to take into consideration such amendments to the Constitution as the said States shall concur in suggesting at the time when the said demand is made; and should any of the proposed amendments to the Constitution be agreed on by the said Convention—voting by States—and the same be ratified by Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, or by Conventions in two-thirds thereof—as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the general Convention—they shall thenceforward form a part of this Constitution. But no State shall, without its consent, be deprived of its equal representation in the Senate." Therefore

"Resolved, That the joint select committee on Confederate Relations be instructed to frame and bring in a bill forthwith, calling a Convention of the people of this State—for submitting the question to them, so as to enable them to assemble in Convention, should a majority of them desire to do so—for the purpose of so amending the Constitution as to provide that hereafter the Representatives of any State or States, whose territory is in the hands of the enemy so that the Confederate laws cannot be enforced therein, shall not, during the continuance of such occupation by the enemy, be permitted to vote upon any question of legislation, but shall have only such rights as are allowed to the delegates of the Territories of the Confederate States, and of considering such other amendments as the said three States shall concur in suggesting.

"Resolved, further, That State sovereignty being the principle on which North Carolina and the other States withdrew from the Federal Union, the States comprising the Southern Confederacy are Sovereigns and the Confederate government is only their agent, and subject to their control, and that the States in their Sovereign capacity, in general Convention assembled, have a right to negotiate a peace with the government of the United States, without consultation with the President of the Confederate States, but subject to the several States in their separate State Conventions."

Mr. Hanes spoke at length in favor of the resolutions. Mr. Phillips moved they be printed; and Mr. Person moved to table, which was done by the vote published in last Observer.

Mr. Smith of Johnston introduced a bill for a Convention, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee. It is merely formal in character, the same as that passed in 1860, under which a Convention was voted down by the people.

In the Commons, on Saturday, Mr. McGehee asked leave to change his vote on the question of laying on the table (Mr. Hanes) resolutions to call a General Convention, from the negative to the affirmative, stating he had not reflected that to call a General Convention, it was necessary to call State Conventions, among them one of the State of North Carolina, to which he was opposed.

Mr. Fowle said he would not object, though thinking the gentleman's vote as it now stood was in accordance with his views. For himself he had taken ground against a State Convention last summer and shown the dangers of separate State action, but these resolutions provided for a General Convention in which, as said the gentleman from Caswell, (Mr. McGehee) much good might, and little evil could be done.

Mr. Caldwell believed the resolutions right and proper, but thought they had not been fully understood. Proceeding to discuss them, he was called to order by Mr. Baxter, the chair sustaining the technical point raised. Leave was then granted Mr. McGehee to change his vote, and Messrs. Strong, Perkins and Ashworth, absent when the vote was taken, were allowed to record theirs.

Congressional Address.—The Confederate Congress has passed a resolution appointing a joint committee to prepare an address to the people of the Confederate States, assuring them of the unalterable determination of Congress to continue, with all its energy, the struggle for independence in which we are engaged, and assuring them of the final triumph, which, in its solemn judgment, must crown our efforts if we stand firm and united together, and wield our resources with strength and wisdom.

SEPARATE STATE ACTION.

The Richmond Whig publishes the following reply of the President to sundry Senators of Georgia, on the topic announced in the above caption:—

RICHMOND, VA., Nov. 17, 1864.

To the Hon. Senators of Georgia—Messrs. A. R. Wright, Pres't Senate, Y. L. Guerry, J. M. Chambers, Thos E. Lloyd, Fred'k K. West, Ro. B. Nesbit:

Gentlemen:—I answered by telegram this morning your letter of 11th inst., as requested, and now respectfully comply with your desire that I should express my views on the subject to which you invite my attention.

In forwarding to me the resolutions introduced into the House of Representatives of Georgia, by Mr. Stephens, of Hancock, you state that you are not inclined to favor the passage of these or any similar resolutions, believing them to have a tendency to create divisions among ourselves, and to unite and strengthen our enemies; but that it is asserted in Milledgeville that I favor such action on the part of the States, and would be pleased to see Georgia cast her influence in this way. You are kind enough to say that, if this be true, and if the passage of these or similar resolutions, would in the slightest degree aid or assist me in bringing the war to a successful and speedy close, you will give them your earnest and hearty support.

I return you my cordial thanks for this expression of confidence, but assure you that there is no truth in the assertions which you mention; and I presume that you will already have seen by the closing part of my annual message, which must have reached you since the date of your letter, that I have not contemplated the use of any other agency in treating for peace than that established by the Constitution of the Confederate States.

That agency seems to me to be well adapted to its purpose, and free from the injurious consequences that would follow any other means that have been suggested.

The objection to separate State action which you present in your letter, appears to be so conclusive as to admit no reply. The immediate and inevitable tendency of such distinct action by each State is to create discordant instead of united counsels; to suggest to our enemies the possibility of a dissolution of the Confederacy, and to encourage them, by the spectacle of our divisions, to more determined and united action against us.

They would readily adopt the false idea that some of the States of the Confederacy are disposed to abandon their sister States and make separate terms of peace for themselves; and if such a suspicion, however unfounded, were once engendered among our own people, it would be destructive of that spirit of mutual confidence and support which forms our chief reliance for success in the maintenance of our cause.

When the proposal of separate State action was first mooted, it appeared to me so impracticable, so void of any promise of good, that I gave no heed to the proposal; but upon its adoption by citizens whose position and ability give weight to the expression of their opinions, I was led to a serious consideration of the subject. My first impressions have not been changed by reflection.

If all the States of the two hostile Federations are to meet in Convention, it is plain that such a meeting can only take place *after* an agreement as to the time, place and terms on which they are to meet. Now, without discussing the minor, although not trifling difficulties, of agreeing as to time and place, it is certain that the States would never consent to a Convention without a previous agreement as to the *terms* on which they were to meet. The proposed Convention must meet on the basis either that no State should, against its own will, be bound by the decision of the Convention, or that it should be so bound. But, it is plain that an agreement on the basis that no State should be bound, without its consent, by the result of the deliberations, would be an abandonment on the part of the North of its pretended right of coercion; would be an absolute recognition of the independence of the several States of the Confederacy; would be, in a word, so complete a concession of the rightfulness of our cause that the most visionary cannot hope for such an agreement *in advance* of the meeting of a Convention. The only other possible basis of meeting is that each State should agree, beforehand, to be bound by the decision of the Convention, and such agreement is but another form of submission to Northern dominion, as we well know that in such a Convention we should be outnumbered nearly two to one. On the very threshold of the scheme proposed, therefore, we are met by an obstacle which cannot be removed. Is not the impracticable character of the project apparent?

You will observe that I leave entirely out of view the suggestion that a convention of all the States of both Federations should be held by common consent without any previous understanding as to the effect of its decisions; should meet merely to debate and pass resolutions that are to bind no one. It is not supposed that this can really be the meaning attached to the proposal by those who are active in its support, although the resolutions to which you invite my attention declare that the function of such a convention would be simply to *propose* a plan of peace, with the *consent* of the two belligerents; or, in other words, to act as negotiators in treating for peace: This part of the scheme is not intelligible to me. If the Convention is only to be held with the consent of the two belligerents, that *consent* cannot be obtained without negotiation. The plan then would resolve itself into a scheme that the two governments should negotiate an agreement for the appointment of negotiators to make proposals for a treaty. It seems much more prompt and simple to negotiate for peace at once than to negotiate for the appointment of negotiators, who are to meet without power to do anything but make proposals.

If the Government of the United States is willing to make peace, it will treat for peace directly. If unwilling, it will refuse to consent to the Convention of States. The author of these resolutions and those who concur in his views, appear to me to commit the radical error of supposing that the obstacle to obtaining the peace which we all desire, consists in the difficulty of finding proper agencies for negotiating, so that the whole scope of the resolutions ends in nothing but suggesting that *if* the enemy will treat, the best agency would be State delegates to a convention; whereas the whole and only obstacle is that the enemy will not treat at all, or entertain any other proposition than that we should submit to their yoke, acknowledge that we are criminals, and appeal to their mercy for pardon.

After this statement of objections, it may appear superfluous to add others of less gravity, but as you invite a full expression of my views, I will add that history is replete with instances of the interminable difficulties and delays which attend the attempt to negotiate on great and conflicting interests, when the parties to the negotiation are numerous. If this has been the case where the parties possessed full powers to conclude a treaty, what can we hope from an assemblage of negotiators from thirty or forty States, who, in the midst of an exasperating warfare, are to meet without power to conclude anything?

In the history of our own country we find that, in a time of profound peace, when the most cordial brotherhood of sentiment existed, and when a long and bloody war had been brought to a triumphant close, it required two years to assemble a convention and bring its deliberations to an end, and another year to procure the ratification of their labors. With such a war as the present in progress, the views of the large assemblage of negotiators proposed would undergo constant change according to the vicissitudes of the struggle, and the attempt to secure concordant views would soon be abandoned, and leave the parties more embittered than ever; less hopeful of the possibility of successful negotiation.

Again, how is the difficulty resulting from the conflicting pretensions of the two belligerents in regard to several of the States to be overcome? Is it supposed that Virginia would enter into a convention with a delegation from what our enemies choose to term the "State" of "West Virginia," and thus recognise an insolent and violent dismemberment of her territory? Or would the United States consent that "West Virginia" should be deprived of her pretensions to equal rights, after having formally admitted her as a State and allowed her to vote at a Presidential election? Who would send a delegation from Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri? The enemy claim to hold the governments of these States, while we assert them to be members of the Confederacy. Would delegates be received from both sides? If so, there would soon be a disruption of the convention. If delegates are received from neither side, then a number of the States most vitally interested in the result would remain unrepresented, and what value could be attached to the mere recommendations of a body of negotiators under such circumstances? Various other considerations suggest themselves, but enough has been said to justify my conclusion that the proposal of separate State action is unwise, impracticable, and offers no prospect of good to counterbalance its manifold injurious consequences to the cause of our country.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.,

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

The loss of Fort Fisher not the worst evil?—We have had occasion frequently to remark that ill fortune never comes singly. When it once begins, it is pretty sure to run its course. The only way to meet it is with an invincible firmness, which must, in the end, tire it out. This we hope and believe our people are prepared to do. It is wonderful, indeed, that we have any seaport remaining; that the enemy, possessing such a fleet as he has at command, and we having none at all, he did not sweep all of them before the second year of the war had been brought to a close. The loss of Fort Fisher involves, we suppose, the stopping of the blockade running. In future, we shall have no more importations from Europe. This will be a great inconvenience certainly, but it by no means decides the question of independence or subjugation. The Confederacy can survive the loss of Fort Fisher, and of Mobile, and of every other seaport in its possession. But it cannot survive the decay of spirit and the loss of determination on the part of its people. That is a thing which it has more cause to fear than all other things put together.

Rich. Whig.

Determined to be free—French armies (says the Charleston Courier) captured the great cities of Spain; demolished the Spanish armies to a great extent; instituted a new Government; and were afterwards compelled to relinquish their supposed conquest by the terrible assaults of Spanish guerrilla bands! And it is as true to-day as if revealed by heaven, that if our armies were disbanded, and our people were still unalterably determined to resist yankee rule over this land, that such rule could not be maintained by *five hundred thousand yankee soldiers!*

Tumble in Gold.—The heavy tumble in gold during the last few days has excited no little remark. There seems to be a complete reaction from the panic which prevailed a fortnight ago in the specie market. We heard of several considerable sales of gold at forty yesterday, and the demand for sterling exchange is now very slack at thirty five.—*Chas. Mercury.*

Congressional Deserters—Who are they?—In the House, last week Mr. Cluskey of Tenn. offered a resolution that the Committee on Elections inquire into and report upon the expediency of declaring vacant the seats of such of the members of the House as have absented themselves from the same with the purpose of not returning to the discharge of their public duties. Adopted.

Capture of Beverly.—We learn, says the Charlottesville Va Chronicle, that Rosser made a clean sweep of the Yankee camp. He has returned to his lair with 580 prisoners, a considerable supply of greenbacks, and clothing enough to furnish his entire command. There were, we believe, only a few casualties.

Resigned—The following officers of North Carolina Troops have resigned: Lt. R. D. Horton, Co. C, 7th regiment; Lt. G. W. Parker, Co. D, 44th regiment; Lt. M. Charles, Co. C, 1st regiment.

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STRAYED,

FROM my lot in Columbus county, on the 4th Jan. 1865, a medium sized BAY MARE, 8 years old, and when last heard from had crossed the White Marsh, making her way back in the direction of Ivey's Bluff, Robeson county. Said Mare was credited for by me on the 21st December 1864, from a gentleman of S. C., who said his name was Turner (christian name not recollected,) and that he lived up near the mountains in S. C. Said Mare was in fine order when she left, has a small star in her forehead, well built, mark of the collar on her shoulders and the left fetlock a little larger than the right, well built, also a scar on the left jaw bone caused by the halter buckle.

Any person taking up said Mare and addressing me at Gum Swamp, Columbus county, will be liberally rewarded. Any information leading to her whereabouts will be thankfully received.

R. D. SESSIONS.
Jan'y 9 1*3pd

State of North Carolina,

MONTGOMERY COUNTY.—IN EQUITY.

Calvin J. Cochran and others, vs J. B. and G. W. Cochran and others.

Petition for the sale of Land.

It appearing to my satisfaction that J. B. Cochran, G. W. Cochran and the heirs of P. J. Cochran, dec'd, and the heirs of Terry Monroe, dec'd, wife of Archy Monroe, reside beyond the limits of this State. It is therefore ordered that publication be made for six weeks in the Fayetteville Observer, notifying said defendants of the filing of this Petition, and that they be and appear at the next term of the Court of Equity to be held for the County of Montgomery, at the Court House in Troy, on the last Monday in February next, then and there to answer this Petition, otherwise the same will be taken pro confesso and heard ex parte as to them.

Witness, Edm'd J. Gaines, Clerk and Master in Equity for said county, at office in Troy.

2-6w E. J. GAINES, C. M. E.